



THE **MONTHLY TEA**

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES OF
THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 25

EXCELLING IN 2026: ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT GUIDED BY RESPECT, PURPOSE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A new year brings fresh energy, renewed focus, and meaningful opportunity. As we step into 2026, we do so together—One Team, One Fight—ready to build on our successes and make this the best year yet for the Town of Bloomfield and for one another.

The year behind us showed the power of collaboration and shared commitment. Across departments, teams, and roles, Team Bloomfield continued to demonstrate professionalism, adaptability, and care for our community. In 2026, we carry that momentum forward, grounded in our core principles that guide our work and our culture every day: **Respect, Sense of Purpose, and Accountability**.

Respect remains the cornerstone of how we work together. It shapes our interactions, strengthens collaboration, and reinforces the understanding that every employee and every role matters. When respect is present, we foster a workplace where people feel valued, heard, and supported—creating space for both individual and team success.

Our **Sense of Purpose** connects our daily work to a greater mission. Whether behind the scenes or on the front lines, each contribution plays a role in serving residents, businesses, and visitors with excellence. In 2026, we continue to approach our work with intention and pride, knowing that what we do makes a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Accountability ensures that our shared goals are met with integrity and follow-through. It challenges us to learn, grow, and continuously improve—individually and collectively. By holding ourselves and one another accountable, we strengthen trust and reinforce the high standards that define Team Bloomfield.

As we look ahead, 2026 represents more than a fresh start—it is a year full of possibility. A year to innovate, to strengthen connections, and to



support one another through both challenges and successes. We are equally hopeful that the year ahead is positive, healthy, and prosperous for our employees personally—bringing balance, fulfillment, and moments of joy both inside and outside the workplace.

Together, we will continue to move Bloomfield forward with confidence, unity, and purpose. Here's to a year of progress, collaboration, and shared wins—for our Town, our teams, and each of you.

With appreciation and best wishes for the year ahead,

Sincerely,

Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.

Town Manager

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: SHANDER GEORGE

Ms. George has been an invaluable member of the Parks, Recreation, & Leisure Services Department and a tremendous asset to the Bloomfield community for over ten years, serving in a wide variety of roles.

Her primary responsibility is overseeing evening and weekend operations for the Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services division at the Alvin & Beatrice Wood Human Services Center. She has truly become the warm, welcoming face that greets patrons as they enter the facility. Ms. George manages the center with great care, collaborating closely with program instructors and participants while prioritizing the safety and well-being of everyone in the building.

During the summer months, she transitions to the office to support our summer programming and willingly steps in wherever needed. She also serves as the lead coordinator for the popular Parent & Child Drop-in program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, working directly with preschool-aged children and their daycare providers.

In addition to her work with the department, Ms. George contributes her talents to the Bloomfield Board of Education



through the Family Resource Center. She truly wears many hats with grace and enthusiasm.

Her infectious love for the Bloomfield community shines through in everything she does. Her dedication is unmatched, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our team!

CONGRATULATIONS SHANDER!

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: SENIOR SERVICES

The Town of Bloomfield is excited to announce that our Senior Services Department is giving their monthly newsletter a fresh identity and new name: "The Bloomfield Silver Scoop." The dedicated senior services team is re-imagining how they engage with Bloomfield's active adult population. This new look represents more than just a visual refresh, it reflects a commitment to meeting the evolving needs in our community.

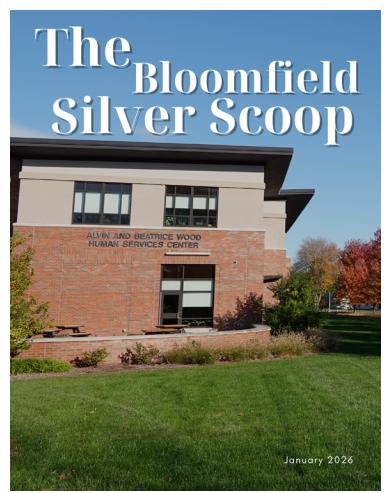
"Our mission is to serve as a welcoming focal point for the delivery of services to adults 55+ and their support network by responding to diverse needs and interests in a manner that will enhance dignity, support independence, health, and general well-being, as well as encourage involvement in the Senior Center and Community," said Director Yvette Huyghue-Pannell. "This newsletter transformation is part of our broader effort to ensure that Senior Services remains accessible, relevant, and responsive."

Located at 330 Park Avenue, the Bloomfield Senior Services Department provides a wide range of support, including nutritional services through the Community Café, wellness screenings, fitness classes, social activities and transportation. The newsletter will continue to highlight these essential

programs while introducing a new digital and print format to keep our community better connected.

The Town of Bloomfield remains committed to supporting our 55+ community with excellence and innovation. This newsletter is one more way we're working to keep Bloomfield a community where residents of all ages can thrive.

For more information about Senior Services programs, transportation, and/or to receive the newsletter electronically, visit the Senior Services Department or call 860-243-8361.



READ NOW

THE MONTHLY TEA



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>

CHRIS CEGLIA & DEANNA COOLIDGE

FROM KATHY ROBERTS, HUMAN RESOURCES

I just wanted to take a moment to give a shout-out to Deanna Coolidge and Chris Ceglia for all their help with the setup for the Employee Holiday Luncheon. They were incredibly helpful and great sports—even when I asked for last-minute changes to the room layout. We truly couldn't have done it without them.

Please pass along our sincere thanks from the HR department.

CRYSTAL HARRISON

FROM REGISTRAR OF VOTERS STAFF

The Registrar of Voters office would like to acknowledge our sincere appreciation to Crystal Harrison of Finance. Since Crystal joined the Finance Department in February 2025 the ROV office has been able to provide payment to our poll workers in a timely manner. Crystal was instrumental in assisting our office in transitioning the workers from hourly paid to contractors. In addition, there were times when poll workers were inadvertently not paid or checks were not received. In each case Crystal was able to assist us and provide a timely resolution.

Most of our poll workers have been with us through many elections. They have been very appreciative in our ability to pay them in a timely manner.

KRISHNA NARAIN

FROM ROSA MATIAS, HUMAN RESOURCES

I wanted to take a moment to give a shout-out to Krishna Naraine for his assistance to Rachel Hogan-McLennan on December 12, 2025.

After packing her car with items for the holiday luncheon, Rachel was on her way to assist with the setup when her car wouldn't start. Krish immediately stepped in, packed the items into his own car, and drove Rachel to 330 Park Avenue so the room setup could be completed. He then brought her back to Town Hall so she could address the issue with her car.

We greatly appreciate Krish's initiative, teamwork, and willingness to help ensure everything went smoothly. Please pass along our sincere thanks to him on behalf of the HR Department.

ROSA MATIAS, KATHY ROBERTS, ADILEN VALENTINA, RACHEL HOGAN-MCLENNON

FROM ALL STAFF

A special shout-out to our Human Resources team for their hard work and thoughtful planning in putting together the Employee Holiday Luncheon. From the welcoming atmosphere to the attention to every detail, their efforts created a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to come together, celebrate the season, and enjoy each other's company. Thank you for helping make the luncheon a meaningful and enjoyable experience for everyone.

2026 Calendar Town Holidays & Check Dates



January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February						
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March						
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May						
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31						

June						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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29	30					

December						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Town Holidays

Check Dates



TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Council-Manager Government Since 1941

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

800 Bloomfield Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

(860) 769-3544

DATE: 11/13/25

TO: All Employees

FROM: Human Resources Department

SUBJECT: 2026 Holidays

The following holidays will be observed by the Town of Bloomfield during the year 2026.

HOLIDAY	DATE OBSERVED
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 19
President's Day	Monday, February 16
Good Friday	Friday, April 3
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19
Independence Day	Friday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25

HAIL

WELCOME TO THE

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



New Employee Biography



Leilani McGuire

Library Page
Library Services

December 1, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Leilani McGuire to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services Department as a Library Page. Leilani currently serves as a Sunday School Teacher at New Dimension Christian Center in Hartford, Connecticut. She has also earned a ministry certification from Charis Bible College in Woodland Park, Colorado.

“ Being a Bloomfield High School graduate and living in this town for 4 plus years, I witnessed in small ways how intentional this town is in our passion to serve and advance our community. With my experience in serving people in various public environments and a background as an assistant, I am enthusiastic to partner with and contribute to the goal of making resources more accessible to the town of Bloomfield through my new role as a Library Page. -Leilani ”

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee Biography



Isabelle Stowell

Library Page
Library Services

December 1, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Isabelle Stowell to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services Department as a Library Page. Isabelle is returning to the Town as a valued retiree, having previously served as a Lifeguard with Leisure Services during the 2025 summer season. She is currently a junior at Global Experience Magnet School.

“ One thing I love about Bloomfield is that it feels like home. Part of that home is the library and the people there. I've been going to the library ever since I moved to Connecticut, and I've always loved the environment the employees bring. I can't wait to add some of my enthusiasm to the Bloomfield Town Library. -Isabelle ”

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee Biography



Yvette Jones-Woodward

Youth Family Worker
Social and Youth Services

December 9, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Yvette Jones-Woodward to the Town of Bloomfield's Social and Youth Department as a Part-time Youth Family Worker. Yvette, with over 20 years of municipal experience, retired as an Accounting Assistant for the City of New Britain and served as a member of the New Britain Youth Coalition.

“ I was drawn to the position's title, "Youth & Family Worker." Keeping families together & informed is a passion of mine. I plan to bring every experience that I've learned along the way. Not holding back for personal gain but executing the fact that "WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER" and "EVERYONE WINS, WHEN EVERYONE'S INCLUDED!" - Yvette ”

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee Biography



Barbara Curtis

Library Page
Library Services

December 15, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Barbara Curtis to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services as a Library Page. She retired as a Field Learning Standards Officer and Research Analyst from the U.S. Navy Submarine Learning Center. Barbara received her Bachelor's and Master of Arts degrees in History and Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin, and a Doctorate in Education with expertise in Reading Instruction from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

“ I have lived in Bloomfield since 2006 and have experienced Bloomfield's strong community spirit. What I especially have appreciated about Bloomfield is its library system and the helpful and warm library staff. I often thought I would love to be part of this dedicated environment. I'm honored to be able to serve the Bloomfield community as a Library Page. - Barbara ”

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

HAIL

WELCOME TO THE

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD



New Employee

Biography



Britt'ny Bettis-Allen

Foster Care Activities Coordinator
Social & Youth Services

December 16, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Britt'ny Bettis-Allen to the Town of Bloomfield's Social & Youth Services as a Part-time Foster Care Activities Coordinator. She currently serves as a Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator for Trinity Health of New England and is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. In 2020, Britt'ny was awarded the Hands On Hartford Family Neighborhood Service Award for her service in addressing food insecurity across Hartford, Connecticut.

“I am excited to join the Town of Bloomfield as the Foster Care Activities Coordinator and contribute to programs that enrich the lives of children in foster care. I'm thrilled to join a team that is passionate about creating safe and engaging experiences that help youth feel connected, supported, and valued within our community. - Britt'ny

“

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee

Biography



Christopher Mack-Artis

Library Page
Library Services

December 22, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Christopher Mack-Artis to the Town of Bloomfield's Library Services as a Library Page. He is a homeschooled student who has completed volunteer hours with the Teen Advisory Group at Bloomfield Public Libraries. Through this experience, he developed responsibility, organization, and a strong appreciation for community service. Christopher is now beginning his first job as a library page, building on the skills he gained as a volunteer.

“As someone who has been coming to the Bloomfield Public Libraries for years, I am excited to now show others the same support and sense of community that was shown to me, and help the Town of Bloomfield as a whole grow into something even better. - Christopher

“

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee

Biography



Zamair La'Beach

Police Officer
Police Department

December 29, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Zamair La'Beach to the Town of Bloomfield's Police Department as a Police Officer. He will have completed two years of service with the National Guard this coming January, holding the rank of Specialist. He is currently pursuing General Studies at Connecticut State Community College in Manchester, Connecticut.

“I was drawn to working for the Bloomfield Police Department because of its commitment to public safety, community trust, and professionalism in policing. I believe in serving the community, fair and impartial enforcement of the law, and a strong presence that promotes safety and confidence among residents. In my role, I will strive to continue the department's dedication to the duty of protecting life, safeguarding liberty, and upholding the conditions that allow every member of the community to pursue happiness safely and freely. - Zamair

“

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!



New Employee

Biography



Jaiden Delarosa

Police Officer
Police Department

December 29, 2025 - We are pleased to welcome Jaiden Delarosa to the Town of Bloomfield's Police Department as a Police Officer. He currently serves in the National Guard as a Military Police Officer and previously worked as a Security Officer with Allied Universal. Jaiden is a graduate of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut.

“The Town of Bloomfield strives for empathy and collaboration to guide a safe and compassionate community. Working with integrity and diligence, I look forward to adding to the standards we hold true." - Jaiden

“

WELCOME TO TEAM BLOOMFIELD!

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Daniel Bonilla	1/21/24 - 2 years	Finance
Thierry Gaiton	1/30/23 - 3 years	BVA
Adilen Valentina	12/2/24 - 2 years	Human Resources
Thangu Narasimhan	1/3/05 - 21 years	ITI
Jenna DiScipio	1/25/21 - 5 years	Leisure Services
Nertalia Borges	1/13/25 - 1 year	Building & Land Use
Henry Rodriguez	1/2/13 - 13 years	Police
Paul Hammick	1/3/11 - 15 years	Police
Anthony Traniello	1/3/23 - 3 years	Police
Gabriella Boulanger	1/6/20 - 6 years	Police
Brianna Vega	1/8/18 - 8 years	Police
Rachmiel Moise	1/8/18 - 8 years	Police
Roy Clemons III	1/10/23 - 3 years	Police
Robert Wilkins	1/18/12 - 14 years	Police
Michael Tobias	1/23/13 - 13 years	Library Services
Ryan French	1/7/09 - 17 years	Public Works
Timothy Decarish	1/15/08 - 18 years	Public Works
Jose Carrero	1/27/25 - 1 year	Public Works
Julia Goncalves	1/5/24 - 2 years	Social & Youth Services
Teresa Blessing	1/2/18 - 8 years	Tax Office
Sharon Gentles-Harris	1/23/19 - 7 years	Office of the Town Manager



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

THE MONTHLY TEA

RECIPE CORNER

Zuppa Toscana Soup

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

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound raw spicy Italian sausage, casings removed if using links
- 1 medium white onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 8 cups (2 quarts) chicken broth
- 1 pound new potatoes, diced
- 1 (15-ounce) can cannellini or other white beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup heavy cream or half-and-half
- 5 cups stemmed and chopped kale (about 5 ounces)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Directions

1. **Brown the sausage:** In a large pot over medium heat, add the olive oil and sausage. As the sausage browns, use a sturdy spatula to break up the sausage into bite-sized pieces. Continue until the sausage is cooked through, about 6 minutes. Remove the sausage with a slotted spoon to a bowl or plate and set aside, leaving the oil in the pot.
2. **Cook the aromatics and add the broth:** To the pot, add the onion, celery, and garlic and cook until the onion is mostly translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the flour and cook, stirring constantly, until it thoroughly coats the vegetables, 1 minute. Slowly stir in the chicken stock and bring to a simmer, scraping the bottom of the pot.



3. **Add the remaining ingredients:** Add the potatoes and white beans. Turn the heat down to low, cover, and simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Add the kale and simmer just until tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and wait until the soup stops simmering. Stir in the half-and-half or cream. Add the sausage back to soup and taste, seasoning with salt and pepper as needed. This soup keeps well for 5 days in the fridge. Reheat it in the microwave, covered, or on the stovetop on low heat until it's steaming hot.

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

communications@bloomfieldct.gov



Q: Where did medieval people go to celebrate New Year's Eve?

A: Knight Clubs!

Q: Why did the calendar look so popular?

A: It had a lot of dates!

Q: What's for breakfast on really cold January days?

A: Snowflakes!