



**APRIL 2026
VOLUME 28**

THE MONTHLY TEA

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES OF
THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

SERVICE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING THE VOLUNTEERS AND TOWN EMPLOYEES WHOSE DEDICATION
MAKES BLOOMFIELD THRIVE

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the individuals who give their time, energy, and talents to strengthen our community in meaningful ways.

Here in Bloomfield, volunteers play an essential role in supporting the fabric of our Town. From serving on boards and commissions to assisting with programs, events, and community initiatives, their contributions help shape the quality of life our residents enjoy every day. Their willingness to step forward, share their expertise, and dedicate their time reflects a deep commitment to public service and civic engagement. Quite simply, our community would not be the same without them.

At the same time, we are equally proud to recognize the many Town employees who volunteer beyond their professional roles. Whether mentoring youth, supporting local nonprofits, coaching teams, or participating in community events, our staff continues to lead by example. Their commitment to giving back extends far beyond the workplace and speaks to the shared values that define our organization.

Volunteerism is at the heart of a strong and connected community. It fosters collaboration, builds relationships, and creates opportunities to make a lasting impact, both big and small. Every act of service contributes to something greater, helping to move our community forward in positive and meaningful ways.

To all of our volunteers and to the employees who generously give their time in service to others, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation. Your dedication, compassion, and commitment truly make a difference.

**TOGETHER, YOUR EFFORTS HELP MAKE BLOOMFIELD A
STRONGER, MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY FOR ALL!!**

TEAM BLOOMFIELD IN THE COMMUNITY



Tax Clerk Randolph White (middle) joins members of Social & Youth Services at the Food Bank. Pictured from BSYS (l-r): Christine Russo, Paola Vargas, Mark Mitchell, Dawn Cooper-Grodger, and Tiffany Wright



Bloomfield Public Library Director Elizabeth Lane joins members of Project Hope CT, in opening a new permanent 6,200-foot homeless shelter. Since 2019, Elizabeth has served on the board of Project Hope CT.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Welcome to the month of April! This spring season reminds us of renewal, growth, and the opportunity to move forward with purpose. It is a fitting time to reflect on the important work we do each day in service to our community and to one another.

As we enter what will undoubtedly be a challenging budget season, I want to acknowledge the continued dedication, resilience, and professionalism each of you brings to your role. The work ahead will require thoughtful decision-making and collaboration, but I am confident in our collective ability to navigate these challenges while staying grounded in our mission and values.

I would also like to extend warm wishes to all who are observing the upcoming holidays of Passover and Easter. May these celebrations bring peace, reflection, and time well spent with family and loved ones.

Congratulations to all those who were recognized at our Quarterly Town Hall on March 31st. Your contributions embody what it means to "Make Awesome Happen," and your commitment to excellence does not go unnoticed. You set the standard for what a strong, service-driven organization looks like.

As we move forward, let us continue to prioritize a healthy and supportive work environment, one where respect,



collaboration, and well-being are at the forefront. A positive workplace culture is essential to both our success as an organization and to the experience of those we serve.

Thank you for all that you do each and every day. Your work matters, and together, we will continue to move Bloomfield forward.

With appreciation and encouragement,

Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr.

Town Manager

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: HUMAN RESOURCES

This month, we are proud to highlight the Human Resources Department, a team that plays a vital role in supporting the people who power the Town of Bloomfield.

At its core, Human Resources is responsible for many of the essential functions that keep our organization running smoothly. From recruitment and hiring to benefits administration, employee relations, training, and policy development, the HR team works behind the scenes every day to ensure that our workforce is supported, informed, and equipped for success. Their work helps create a strong foundation for every department, enabling staff to focus on delivering high-quality services to our residents.

Beyond these core responsibilities, Human Resources continues to make a meaningful impact through its commitment to employee wellness and professional growth. This year, the department has continued its focus on wellness initiatives, recognizing the importance of supporting employees both professionally and personally. A recent highlight included the on-site chair massages offered in March, which provided staff with a well-deserved opportunity to relax, recharge, and prioritize their well-being during the workday.



In addition, Human Resources has taken the lead on launching the Town's Emerging Leadership Program, which is an investment in developing the next generation of leaders within our organization. That program was designed to cultivate talent, build skills, and create pathways for employees to grow and take on future leadership roles, ensuring the continued strength and sustainability of our workforce.

Through their dedication, innovation, and commitment to employee support, the Human Resources Department helps foster a positive workplace culture where employees can thrive.



MissionSquare
RETIREMENT

Connect with your MissionSquare Representative

Wherever you are on your savings journey, you need to plan for the retirement you want. Your MissionSquare representative, Jim Tavares, is here to help you along the way.

- Enroll in your employer plan
- Roll-in from your old employer plan to your MissionSquare plan
- Contribution changes to accounts if permitted
- Account and portfolio review
- Investor education

Seminar

What's the difference between Roth 457 and Roth IRA
One-on-one sessions will also be available

Tuesday, April 28th

TIME: TBD

Location: 330 Park Ave, Bloomfield

MORE INFORMATION FORTH COMING



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

EMPLOYEE WELLNESS - CHAIR MASSAGES



ONE TEAM...ONE FIGHT

2025 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: TIFFANY WRIGHT

The Town of Bloomfield is proud to recognize Tiffany Wright, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator, as the 2025 Employee of the Year, an honor selected from among this year's four Employees of the Quarter and a reflection of her outstanding service, dedication, and impact on our community.

In her role supporting the Youth Diversion Team, formally known as the Juvenile Review Board, Tiffany consistently goes above and beyond to serve youth and families with compassion, professionalism, and determination. Her work is centered on helping young people navigate challenging circumstances while providing families with the tools, resources, and guidance they need to move forward successfully.

One example that truly illustrates Tiffany's commitment involved a family whose car had been impounded as part of a JRB-related case. Recognizing the serious impact this had on the family's ability to maintain stability, Tiffany took it upon herself to advocate tirelessly on their behalf. Over the course of six months, she worked closely with the Bloomfield Police Department and the court system, coordinating efforts, gathering critical information, and persistently seeking a resolution. Thanks to her dedication, the family was ultimately able to regain their vehicle, restoring not just transportation, but a sense of stability and hope.



This level of care and persistence is not the exception in Tiffany's work, it is the standard. Every day, she demonstrates a deep commitment to strengthening families, keeping youth out of the court system, and ensuring that those she serves feel supported, informed, and empowered.

Tiffany's impact extends far beyond any single case. She embodies the values of public service and reflects the very best of what it means to serve the Bloomfield community. It is for these reasons, and so many more, that her peers selected her as the 2025 Employee of the Year.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: ROMANO TUCKER

We are proud to recognize Romano Tucker as Employee of the Quarter for his outstanding contributions, initiative, and dedication to strengthening internal operations and communication across the Town.

During this quarter, Romano played a key role in the development of the Town's Intranet, helping to create a centralized and user-friendly resource that enhances staff access to important information and improves day-to-day communication. His efforts have contributed to a more connected and informed workforce.

Romano also supported the implementation of the Code Two email signature platform, assisting with system integration and ensuring a smooth rollout across departments. In addition, he has taken the initiative to draft several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), helping to promote consistency, clarity, and efficiency in organizational practices.

His work extends into research and process improvement as well. Romano has conducted valuable background research on key municipal functions, including FOIA procedures, Boards and Commissions appointments, and citation fee collection—providing insights that support informed decision-making.



Beyond internal operations, Romano has also made a meaningful impact on the Town's social media efforts, helping to ensure communications remain timely, professional, and engaging.

Romano's professionalism, innovation, and commitment to public service have made a significant impact in a short time. We are grateful for his contributions and proud to recognize him with this well-deserved honor.



TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

EMPLOYEE**SHOUTOUTS**

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>

DWIGHT CARLSON & KEVIN COCHRAN
BLOOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
 FROM DAWN COOPER-GRODGER

I am glad to take a moment and recognize Town of Bloomfield employees that navigated a crisis moment and took a high level of compassion to inform and reassure an elderly couple. A recent home visit involved the services of BPD and the Building Department. I joined the two representatives (Dwight Carlson and Kevin Cochran) who provided an explanation of the home visit prior to entering the premise.

The involved visit reduced the crisis and reassured the elderly couple due to the kindness and compassion of the BPD and both representatives of the Building department. This is just one example of daily appreciation for team members like BPD and the Building Department representatives Dwight & Kevin that uphold the Code of Conduct with kindness in heart.

FINANCE OPERATIONS

FROM ALL STAFF

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Finance Department for the successful completion of the FY2024 Audit. This achievement reflects months of careful coordination, attention to detail, and a deep commitment to accuracy and accountability. We recognize the significant effort required to compile, review, and submit this work, and the critical role it plays in maintaining the Town's financial integrity. On behalf of all staff, thank you for your professionalism, diligence, and dedication. Your work not only supports our operations but also reinforces the trust our community places in us every day.

MARIO SALZA & MICHAEL GIROUX
 FROM MICHAEL CASTONGUAY

I want to recognize Mario Salza and Michael Giroux for their exceptional efforts during the tragic event that occurred on March 9, 2026, at 27 Banbury Road.

Mr. Salza was initially contacted that evening with a request to assist the Center Fire Department by removing debris from Banbury Road. However, the situation escalated rapidly, requiring a much higher level of support. In response, Mr. Salza promptly called in Mr. Giroux to provide additional assistance with machine operation.

Both individuals were subsequently asked to move sections of the structure to aid the Fire Department in extinguishing remaining fires. They were also called upon to assist in the recovery of a deceased individual—tasks that fall well outside the normal scope of operations for the Bloomfield Public Works Department.

Throughout this challenging and emotionally difficult situation, Mr. Salza and Mr. Giroux demonstrated remarkable professionalism, composure, and dedication. Their ability to remain calm and focused under such tense circumstances is a testament to their character and to the high standards upheld by the Bloomfield Public Works Department.

ONE TEAM...ONE FIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026 - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

2ND ANNUAL
*Organizational
Day*

**MORE
INFORMATION
COMING
SOON**



MANDATORY ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

THE MONTHLY TEA

HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

As we commemorate National Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, we acknowledge the essential support you provide to every facet of our operations. Administrative professionals are truly the backbone of our daily operations, providing essential support that allows every department to function efficiently and effectively.

From coordinating schedules and managing communications to organizing records, assisting residents, and ensuring day-to-day tasks stay on track, their contributions are both wide-ranging and invaluable. They are often the first point of contact for the public, offering a welcoming and professional presence that reflects the very best of our Town. Their ability to balance multiple responsibilities with precision, patience, and a positive attitude does not go unnoticed.

Beyond their technical skills, administrative professionals bring a level of dedication, adaptability, and problem-solving that helps teams navigate challenges and meet goals. Whether behind the scenes or front and center, their work strengthens collaboration, enhances customer service, and supports the delivery of high-quality services to our community.

On Administrative Professionals Day, we extend our sincere appreciation to each and every member of our administrative staff. Your hard work, reliability, and commitment are essential to our success, and we are grateful for the many ways you contribute each day.



Thank you for all that you do to support the Town of Bloomfield and the community we serve.

FY2027 BUDGET UPDATE

The development of the FY2027 Budget is now underway, marking an important time for our organization as we plan for the year ahead. The budget process is one of the most critical responsibilities we undertake, as it directly shapes the services we provide and ensures we are meeting the needs of our community in a responsible and sustainable way.

This year, like many municipalities, we are facing a more challenging financial landscape. While there will be difficult decisions ahead, this process also presents an opportunity to work collaboratively, think creatively, and continue prioritizing the services that matter most to our residents.

We recognize that the work each department contributes during budget season is both significant and demanding. Your insight, expertise, and thoughtful planning are essential to building a budget that reflects our shared goals and values.

While the road ahead may require careful navigation, we are confident in our team and our ability to meet these challenges together. Through collaboration, communication, and a continued commitment to service, we will move forward with purpose and resilience.

FY2027 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - 6:30 pm

FY 2027 Budget Overview by Town Manager; Revenue, Expenditures, Fixed Charges, Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Senior Services; Social & Youth Services; Library Services

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Board of Education & Capital Improvements

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Public Safety; Public Works, Building & Land Use, General Government/Administration; Boards and Agencies

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Public Hearing & Council Budget Deliberations/Action

Monday, April 20, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Council Budget Deliberations/Action Part 2 (if needed)

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Community Budget Forum

Monday, May 4, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Annual Town Meeting



Golf Now Open!

Spring is starting to bloom in Bloomfield. We are excited to welcome you back to the course for what we hope is your best season yet! Tee times are now available, the weather is warming, not sure how it gets better. **BOOK ONLINE!**



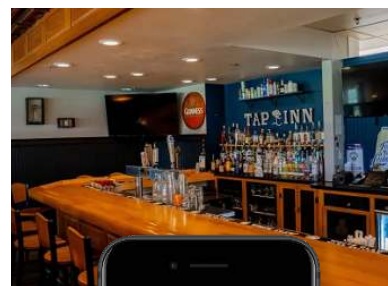
Tee Up Your Outings

Secure your outing dates now! Whether you're planning a corporate outing, fundraiser, alumni event, or other special occasion, our team is here to create a smooth and memorable experience from start to finish.



The Tap Inn

Join us for a bite to eat before or after your round! The Tap Inn offers fresh, made to order food that is sure to be just what you need. And don't forget to grab a refreshing drink to go with your meal!



Let's Connect

Stay connected with us on social media for exclusive updates, special offers, behind-the-scenes content, and the latest news you won't want to miss. Follow us today and be part of everything we're doing, you won't want to miss out!



Follow Us:



860.242.1401



wintonburyhillsgolf.com

AWARENESS, WELLNESS & COMMUNITY FOCUS

Every April Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Month beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. For over 20 years, Autism Speaks has stood alongside the autism community, igniting a global movement for understanding, acceptance, and lasting change. Together, we've—fueled groundbreaking research, advanced critical advocacy, and opened doors to education, healthcare, and employment, creating a brighter future for people with autism.



During April, we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM) and the importance of communities working together to support and strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment. Throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness about child and family well-being and work together to implement effective strategies that support families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

April is National Financial Literacy Month. It's an excellent opportunity to review and upgrade your financial smarts. National Financial Literacy Month places the importance of learning about finances and the tools to learn about them right in the classroom, too. No matter their age, putting the know-how and resources at our children's fingertips will give them the power to make smart decisions now and in the future.



Stress and poor mental health are one of the biggest public health challenges that we're facing. Sadly, even though that is the case, we are still not taking its impact seriously enough. We continue to separate mental health from physical health and vice versa. The reality is they cannot be separate – they are two sides of the same coin. There is no health without mental health and stress can lead to numerous health problems. From physical problems, like heart disease, insomnia, digestive issues, immune system challenges, etc to more serious mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression.

Stress Awareness Month has been held every April since 1992 to raise awareness of the causes and cures for our modern-day stress epidemic. It is the time when we have an opportunity for an open conversation on the impact of stress. Dedicated time to removing the guilt, shame, and stigma around mental health. To talk about stress, and its effects and open up about our mental and emotional state with friends, families, colleagues, and professionals.



TEAM BLOOMFIELD

SHARE YOUR SELF-CARE IDEAS!



In partnership with the Emerging Leaders, we have a special wellness project we are working on, and we would love to include your ideas and inspiration!

We are looking for feedback on 2 specific topics:

- 1. Simple and Easy Recipe or Snack** ideas for practical ways to fuel your workday. This can include ideas for snacks and meals that can be put together or enjoyed at your desk or easily meal-prepped at the start of your day.
- 2. Mental Health Wellness/ Burnout Prevention** ideas for helpful ways to manage stress and prevent or reduce burnout.

You can share ideas for either or both topics through 3 easy ways!

- Scan the QR code to share your ideas via GoogleForms.
- Email Adilen at avalentina@bloomfieldct.gov directly with your suggestions.
- Stop by HR in person- whatever works for you!

We can't wait to hear all of your great ideas!

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES:
APRIL 30, 2026**



LET'S LUNCH & LEARN!

Get the most out of your benefits!

A tour of Cigna Benefits A-Z

Join us and enjoy a free lunch while learning how to take full advantage of your benefits! You'll get practical tips on preventive care, understand your Cigna benefits from A to Z, and have the chance for a Q&A so you have everything you need to stay healthy!

Topics Covered:

- Preventive Care Services A-Z
- How to get incentives for taking care of your health
- Health Risk Assessments

**Wednesday
April 15, 2026
12:00pm-1:00pm
Council
Chambers/
Town Hall**

**This event is for CIGNA
Benefited Employees Only &
Requires RSVP by 4/8/26**

**Contact HR
to sign up!
Stop by,
Call ext. 3544
or email
avalentina@bloomfieldct.gov**



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!

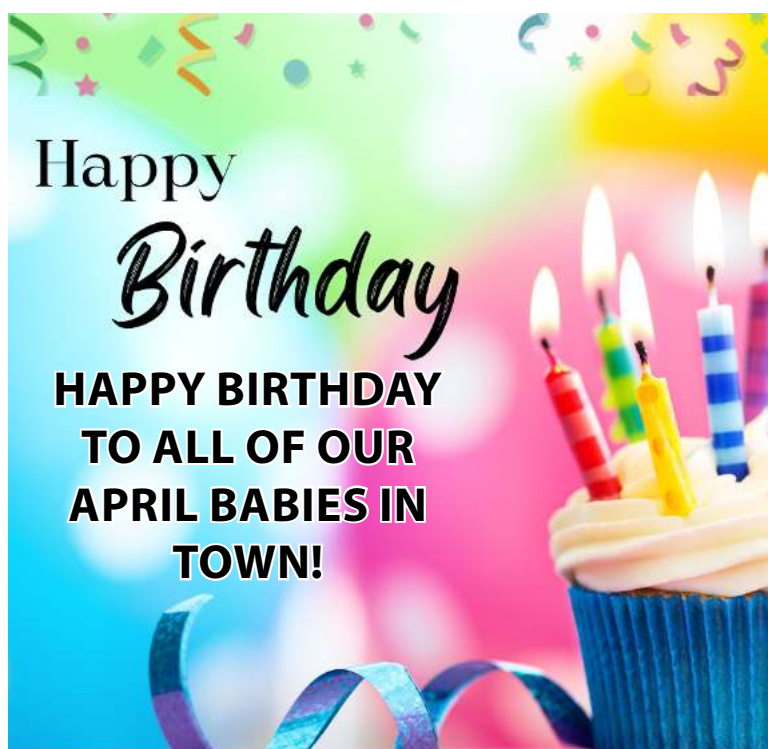
MONDAY**8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM****TUESDAY****8:30 AM TO 6:00 PM****WEDNESDAY****8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM****THURSDAY****8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM****FRIDAY****8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM****WEEKENDS****CLOSED**

***THE EXTENDED PILOT PROGRAM WILL RUN
THROUGH AUGUST 28, 2026***



WORK ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT
Anthony Pollicito	4/2/18 - 8 years	Building
Bruce Lajoie	4/28/25 - 1 year	ITI
Matthew Mace	4/6/09 - 17 years	Leisure Services
Nicole Downs	4/1/11 - 15 years	Police
John Barrett	4/3/14 - 12 years	Police
Chris Collins	4/4/11 - 15 years	Police
Latanya Tubbs	4/7/03 - 23 years	Police
Chrystal Gibbs	4/8/13 - 13 years	Police
Jalisa Cuevas	4/22/13 - 13 years	Police
Matthew Bangs	4/26/21 - 5 years	Police
Issac Rodriguez	4/29/25 - 1 year	Library Services
David Frank	4/4/05 - 21 years	Public Works
Michael Castonguay	4/4/05 - 21 years	Public Works
Shane O'Neill	4/22/24 - 2 years	Public Works
Chris Ceglia	4/24/23 - 3 years	Facilities
Yvette Huyghue-Pannell	4/10/85 - 41 years	Senior Services
Dawn Cooper-Grodger	4/23/01 - 25 years	Social & Youth Services



RECIPE CORNER

Cowboy Caviar

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

**A fresh, simple dip that
can be thrown together in
under 15 minutes!**



Ingredients

- 3 Roma tomatoes seeds removed, diced
- 2 avocados diced
- ½ cup diced red onion
- 15 ounces canned black beans 1 can, rinsed and drained
- 15 ounces canned black eyed peas 1 can, rinsed and drained
- 1½ cups frozen corn kernels thawed
- 1 bell pepper diced, any color
- 1 jalapeno seeds removed, finely diced
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Tortilla chips for serving

Dressing:

- ½ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder

Directions

1. Combine tomatoes, avocado, onion, black beans, black eyed peas, corn, pepper, jalapeno pepper, and cilantro in a large bowl. Toss/stir well so that ingredients are well-combined.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together olive oil, lime juice, red wine vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper, and garlic powder.
3. Pour dressing over other ingredients and stir/toss very well.
4. Keep refrigerated. If not serving immediately, be sure to toss/stir well before serving.

Notes:

- **Frozen Corn:** Toss it in the salad frozen unless you plan on eating it immediately, it thaws quite quickly.



Q: What do you call a bear caught in April showers?

A: A drizzly bear.

Q: What is Mr. T's favorite month?

A: April, fools.

Q: Why is Yoda such a good gardener?

A: He has a green thumb.

