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May 21, 2022

Good day Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councilors,

Here are the latest updates from the Community Building Leadership Team (CBLT) including topical subjects and departmental reported updates and issues. You will note changes to the formatting of the report as we have transitioned in the departmental sections of the report from bulletin points to more substantive topical narratives.

### **TOWN COUNCIL [COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE] BUSINESS WORKSHOPS**

I am requesting that the Town Council consider holding once a month meetings in a forum similar to our recent budget workshops. I believe the informal settings of those workshops proved effective and efficient in focusing on the key issues for budgetary decision-making producing a collaboratively-determined and enhanced adopted budget to the originally proposed budget.

The adopted budget has also set the stage for implementation of new and improved programs as well as major infrastructure projects that the Town Council and the community should be kept actively engaged. Additionally, we have a long list of other business issues that should be discussed with direction provided by Councilors, most efficiently operating as a Committee of the Whole.

Current business topics that are befitting address by the full Council include but are not limited to the following:

- Road Improvements Plan and Challenge Issues;
- Five Year Affordable Housing Plan;
- Council Rules of Procedure Revisions;
- Community Investment Fund Opportunities;
- Development Agency Development Initiative;
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative Kickoff;
- Strategic Visioning/Plan of Conservation and Development Joint-Initiative;
- Budget Modifications and Community Investment Plan Updates;
- Strategic Communications Plan including Website Overhaul;
- American Rescue Plan Act Funds Workshops and Deliberations;
- Town Manager Performance Management Plan;
- Etc.

With most of these type issues being administratively driven but requiring the education, feedback and direction of all Councilors, in my opinion, there isn't currently an in-depth, effective or efficient enough forum for the Town Manager to schedule full discussions with the Town Council. However, with the vast number of meetings already in place for subcommittees, boards, committees, agencies, and commissions, I'm also not projecting to expand the number of meetings.

A potential option is devoting one of the two regular monthly meetings of the Town Council to an in-person business workshop of the council and staff with hybrid participation options for the public.

## **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF) 2030 NOTIFICATION**

On this past Wednesday, the Town of Bloomfield received official notification of eligibility and guidelines from Matthew J. Pugliese, Director of Community Investment Fund (CIF) 2030, Department of Economic & Community Development, State of Connecticut.

As required by the authorizing statute, "the Board's co-chairs [House Speaker Matt Ritter and Senate President Martin Looney] shall notify the chief executive of each eligible municipality of the forthcoming Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and application schedule."

The Community Investment Fund is a five-year fund of up to \$875 million designed to foster economic development in historically underserved communities across the state. Eligible applicants include municipalities, community development corporations which serve one or more municipalities, and not for profit organizations.

Applications may be submitted jointly by multiple eligible applicants including by multiple eligible municipalities.

Eligible projects must promote economic or community development in the municipality where the project is located. Eligible projects must require at least \$250,000 of state funding. There is no limit on the number of proposals which an eligible applicant may submit for each round of CIF funding.

There are two categories of eligible projects: capital improvements and small business supports.

Potential uses of capital improvement funds include construction costs; acquisition of land; and fixtures, furniture and equipment. Professional services and other soft costs may be funded; however, preference is to minimize such costs, in keeping with best economic development practices.

Small business support programs may be proposed by an eligible applicant for the purpose of providing a revolving loan program, micro loans, or gap financing to small businesses located within the municipality; or start-up funds to establish a small business.

There will be two rounds of funding in 2022. For the first round, the notice of funding availability will be issued on May 23, 2022; the deadline to submit applications will be July 25, 2022. For the second round, the notice of funding availability will be issued in November; the deadline to submit applications will be in January 2023.

I recommend a Town Council Business Workshop soon after we receive the notice of funding availability.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOI) REMINDERS**

Periodically, I will provide reminders of certain requirements under the Freedom of Information Act (also referenced as FOI) per Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 1-225 provides for meetings of government agencies to be public. The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, shall be open to the public. Notice of each special meeting shall be posted not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

Section 1-200 provides a definition of meetings. Meetings include any convening or assembly of a quorum of a multimember public agency (for example, 5 represents a quorum for Town Council; and as few as 3 could represent a quorum for a Town Council Subcommittee), and any communication by or to a quorum of a multimember public agency, whether in person or by means of electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

## **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

### **Human Resources**

#### Recruitments

The Human Resources Department has been very busy with recruitment in the month of May. Five candidates have been offered employment with the Town. The new incumbent Assessor will be starting on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the new incumbent Chief Building Official will be starting on May 23, 2022. A part-time Dispatcher, Recording Secretary and Pool Maintainer incumbents have been offered and have accepted the positions. Start dates are forthcoming. The internal promotional position within the Police Department has been completed. Officer Robert Wilkins was promoted to Sergeant effective May 15, 2022. The Detective finalists' interviews with the Police Chief will be completed within the next two weeks.

### **Finance**

#### What Will the Community Choose?

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) community survey went live this past week and the mailer should be received by all neighbors by the end of this week. Each week, the completed surveys will be summarized and distributed to the Town Council in a weekly report put together by the ARPA consultant. The next step is to hold community engagement workshops that will discuss ARPA, the results of the survey and give the community another opportunity to give input on how to spend the remaining \$1.6 million. As we close out the first month of the community survey, we will analyze the results and plan the outreach sessions.

### New Technology for Town Pool

The Information Services and Technology Division (IST) is working with Leisure Services on upgrading the network connection between the Human Services Center and the Town Pool facility. The current wireless solution was put in place since the building does not have a wired connection; however, last year there were times when lost network connections were observed leading to various connectivity issues. In addition, IST is working to install free public wireless equipment provided by the State of Connecticut for coverage to the pool and the playground for public use.

### Body Worn Camera Replacement Server

The Town of Bloomfield, Police Department (PD) and IST, was the first municipality in the State of Connecticut to deploy body worn cameras. One of the main reasons that the staff team settled on Watchguard as the solution was the ability to integrate the body worn cameras with the cameras mounted in the police vehicles. This video solution requires a server to store and manage all of the video that is collected. This project was completed over four years ago and it was time for the server and cameras to be replaced. The new server was delivered and the configuration was completed on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the body worn camera devices and related hardware are on back-order due to supply chain issues. This was a Community Investment Plan (CIP) initiative.

### Technology Design for Bloomfield Public Library (BPL) Building Projects

IST is working with representatives from the Bloomfield Public Library (BPL) Building Project to review and provide technology expertise for outfitting the needed library swing spaces. Additionally, IST is working with BPL staff to develop meaningful and creative audio/video solutions for the new buildings. One important piece of this project is that the Town will need to move the State's fiber optic network from Prosser and McMahon Wintonbury Libraries. IST is working with the Connecticut Education Network and their vendors to move fiber optic equipment from Prosser to Town Hall to keep the Town's network functioning while the new buildings are under construction.

### Town Data Security and Recovery

The Town purchased Cohesity appliances for Town Hall and the Police Department. The two appliances provide redundancy and failover capabilities. IST continues to focus on solidifying the data backup strategy which includes confirming and testing to ensure server and data backups are completing successfully. One aspect of data backup with a continuing focus is related to the exchange server. Currently, the Town still needs a data recovery solution to comply with Freedom of Information Act (FOI) requests. The process needs to be able to search and recover on a granular level to effectively recover data requests. IST is running our old backup system concurrently for this functionality but would like to completely cut over to Cohesity to avoid renewing the maintenance agreement with the old provider, a potential for cost savings. The IST Division will continue to work with a contractor to assist with data migration for emergency and Town operations. Existing Netapp appliances that house the data are approaching end-of-life.

### Police Department Power Backup

There was a recent power outage during a generator test at the Police Department (PD). IST recovered the main server rack and it was moved over to a new Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). The secondary rack is also being protected by the same UPS. IST is looking into solutions to supplement the existing power backup solution with a secondary/redundant UPS – which would eliminate a single point of failure at the PD with regards to power.

### Authentication Challenges for Data Protection

The Information Services and Technology Division (IST) is evaluating options for implementing a multi-factor authentication method for accessing computers. Such a method will help enhance the Town's digital security by requiring users to identify themselves with more than just a username and password which could be easily compromised as this is a requirement to obtain cyber insurance.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Study Kickoff

The 2022 budget contained funding in the amount of \$50,000 for a diversity, equity and inclusion study. As the result of a formally, advertised solicitation process, BJM Solutions LLC of Trumbull Connecticut was selected to perform the work. A contract was recently executed, and the work will be coordinated and overseen by the Town Manager's Office. BJM estimates the engagement will take 17 weeks.

### Disparity Study

The Town Council approved a budget modification in the 2023 budget to conduct a disparity study. The disparity study is necessary in order to establish a set aside program. A formally advertised solicitation was issued on May 13, 2022 and proposals are due on June 3, 2022. The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found on the Purchasing Division's "Current Bids and RFPs" web page at the link below:

<https://www.bloomfieldct.gov/purchasing-and-risk-management/pages/current-bids-and-rfps>

### Purchasing Threshold for Fiscal Year 2023

Section 502 of the Bloomfield Charter establishes that formal advertised bids/proposals are required if the purchase exceeds one tenth of one percent of the annual Town budget for the fiscal year. With the passage of the Adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Town Budget at a special meeting on May 2, 2022, the formal threshold for FY 2023 is \$101,294.

### Greenhouse Gas and Energy Consumption Benchmarking

The 2022 budget adopted by the Town Council included funding in the amount of \$10,000 for greenhouse gas benchmarking. The firm of Barton & Loguidice was selected through a competitive quote process and was issued a purchase order for the work on May 18, 2022. They will be using Town supplied data to conduct a comprehensive baseline snapshot of town facilities and operations, identifying and analyzing actions that can leverage sustainability activities and apply new strategies for town facilities and operations. The firm will then prepare a climate emergency energy plan that will describe actions, consider costs and identify

opportunities for implementation. The implementation strategy will include phasing, funding and prioritization which will assist the Town in budget development and operational strategies. The cost is \$9,956 and will take approximately 6 months to complete.

## Leisure Services

### Memorial Day Event

Plans are underway for the 2022 Bloomfield Memorial Day parade and ceremonies which will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022; this year's Parade Marshal is Nathaniel Dukes, United States Navy (1965-1969) while the speaker during the ceremony will be Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., U.S. Army Reserve Colonel as well as the current Director of the State of Connecticut Fusion Center known as the Connecticut Intelligence Center, and former Bloomfield Police Department Lieutenant.

#### Schedule of events:

10 am	Memorial Ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery
11:30 am	Parade steps off
12 noon	Memorial Day Ceremony at the Town Green

### Rockwell Park Master Plan

Working with the planning consultant the questionnaire survey was released to neighbors with just under 200 responses. Based on the response from the questionnaire, coupled with discussions with the working group, the consultant is currently working on the first concept plan for the park. This concept plan will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.

### Splash Pad

On-site splash pad work has begun and will continue throughout the month of May and into June. An updated construction schedule will be received during the week of May 23.

### Farmington River Park

The request for quotes scope of work has been released for the demolition of the house that resides on the property. Quotes were due by the close of the business day on Friday, May 20, 2022. In addition to moving forward with the house demolition project, the white and blue trails have been re-marked for better identification.

### Accelerate Connecticut (CT) Summer Program Innovation Grant

The Leisure Services Department has submitted a grant request through the State of Connecticut Accelerate CT Summer Program Innovation Grant to help our neighbors by lowering the weekly registration fees, extending the camp day, and to provide financial assistance with summer field trips. Confirmation of approval is anticipated by mid-June.

## **Library** **Bloomfield Public Library (BPL)**

### Partnership with University of Hartford

As part of the library's ongoing partnership with the University of Hartford, Youth Services Librarian Heidi Sacchitella gave a presentation to early childhood education students that highlighted the valuable resources the library offers to teachers. The stated goal of the presentation: "For students to value the public library as a learning partner and a literacy advocate with joy and learning at the core."

### Literacy Adventures

In the library's May 23-28 newsletter, Library Assistant Shantel Isaacs talks about engaging young readers with books about kindness, mindfulness, sports, multi-cultural awareness, and social-emotional awareness. Shantel also highlights the importance of library story times in "developing a love of books and stories [in children] before they begin school." The return of the library's in-person story times has been very successful with attendance by hundreds of children and caregivers in the past month.

### Current Events and Musical Therapy

On May 2, the library offered the virtual program, *Understanding Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*, presented by Romuald Byczkiewicz and Francis Coan, Professors of History. 36 people attended the topical and informative program, which is now available to view on BPL Online. On May 17, as part of Mental Health Awareness Month, Emily Bevelaqua of CT Music Therapy Services presented *Using Music Therapy to Promote Wellness and Improve Mental Health*.

## **Planning and Development**

### Introducing Bloomfield's next Chief Building Official, Dwight Carlson

'I would like to introduce myself as Bloomfield next Building Official. My name is Dwight Carlson. I would like to provide you with a very brief background of my experience. I have been in the construction industry for approximately 35 years. I worked as an Electrical Inspector for the City of Stamford's Bureau, for 10 years. I am a licensed electrical contractor and licensed with the Department of Administrative Services as an Electrical Inspector and Building Official. One of the reasons why I feel that I have been successful in my career is because of my approach to educate the public in the Building Code instead of citing a violation. As the new Building Official some of my goals are to review our current permit software to understand if we are utilizing its full potential and/or possibly automating some of the processes for better control of the workflow. Additionally, with the anticipation of adding staff to the team we have solicited the help of a Design Professional to help us design the Building Division and Land Use work area to provide a productive work flow along with a possibility of re-designing our reception area that provides a welcoming informational format where our residents interact with our staff and conduct their business.'

## Residents' Concerns

The Building Division is currently working with the residents of the Wedgewood Apartments to address some of their housing concerns. I contacted the Wedgewood Tenants Union or WTU and requested that they identify a couple members of their leadership as a point of contact to provide me with a list of concerns from the tenants for the Building Division and the WTU leadership team to review so we can assign the proper resources to help address these concerns.

The Building Division is helping the residents of Camelot Drive where they had an old boiler replaced and are having difficulty with the contractor who installed it. We have contacted the contractor on their behalf and have made several visits to the address to understand concerns and are working with the property manager on possible resolutions.

## Construction Projects around Town

A development project has started with the clearing the trees off of the property located at 1146 Blue Hills Avenue to start the groundwork for ten new duplex houses.

The property located at 848 Cottage Grove Road formerly known as Simsbury Bank is being altered to accommodate a new Starbucks with a spacious cafe lounge area and a new drive thru. The other side of the building at this location is being demolished for a future tenant who at this time has not been determined.

The property located at 713 Bloomfield Avenue across from Town Hall is approaching its final stages. The Building Division is currently conducting final inspections for the fourth floor and anticipate that the Builder will be obtaining the Certificate of Occupancy within the month of June.

The Building Division is also conducting final inspections for Lavender Fields located at 470 Cottage Grove Road. Although it has taken a while the 38 Unit complex should be applying for their Certificate of Occupancy within the next couple of months.

Some neighbors may have noticed a lot of activity at the end of Jolley Road where a new 111 unit apartment building will be constructed. The Building Division is currently conducting preliminary inspections for the site.

## Bloomfield – Tariffville Connector Greenway Trail

The project for construction of 600 feet of multi-use greenway trail extending the existing trail running past Old St. Andrews Church in northwest Bloomfield into Tariffville has been advertised for bids. A pre-bid conference was held. Bids open in Simsbury on May 26. The contract is expected to be awarded to the selected bidder in early July with construction to begin in August. The schedule will have construction being completed in the summer of 2023.



## [Agritourism in Bloomfield](#)

Agritourism is a way to preserve small farms, improve local food resources and boost the local economy with minimal neighbor impact. Last summer a number of complaints were fielded by the Planning and Development Department. Small farms in Town continue to request the ability to host educational and entertainment events, farm stores and are seeking ways to keep their farms running. A petition was submitted by applicant and local resident Aaron J. Romano for a proposed zoning regulation text amendment to allow for the expansion of farm activities to include agritourism. The public hearing is continued to May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Town staff, the Town Attorney and the Town Plan and Zoning Commission will continue to work with community members, local farms and supporting organizations to create local supportive laws that minimize negative impacts to the community.

## [Housing in Bloomfield](#)

The State of Connecticut, per General Statutes 8-30g, requires that a community's affordable housing stock be 10% of the total housing units. The Department of Housing reports the Town's affordable housing to be between 11% and 12%. In addition to state laws, providing housing choice for all is an equitable best practice.

The department filed an extension to the Department of Housing and a draft scope of services has been forwarded to the Purchasing Agent for review for the required 5 year Affordable Housing Plan. Director Jennifer Valentino Rodriguez will obtain three quotes starting May 17<sup>th</sup> as this project is under the threshold for requiring a formal solicitation for services. The creation of this plan is timely and will inform the upcoming draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Town representatives are collaborating to create a program proposal to assist qualifying homeowners with priority home improvements like heating, roof repair, siding and similar repairs. The group met on May 6 to further the discussion. Goman & York is providing comment on the draft documents.

In partnership with the consultants for the Affordable Housing Plan and Plan of Conservation and Development, along with staff, Council, boards and commissions and other community members, a housing workshop will be conducted during the summer/early fall of 2022. This workshop will provide input to inform such Plans, creating actionable goals and objectives and tools to carry out those goals and objectives.

## [Small Business Support in Bloomfield](#)

Town representatives and Chamber of Commerce representatives are collaborating to create a program proposal, partnering with the Chamber and a local bank to administer low interest small business loans for Bloomfield neighbors. Goman & York is providing comment to the draft documents.

The ribbon cutting and celebration for Waypoint Spirits Distillery was held on Friday, May 13, 2022. Waypoint Spirits is located on 410 Woodland Avenue. This business initially planned to open fully during the pandemic period; however, they were only recently able to complete

renovations, expand seating and gathering space. Groups are also welcome to host events there. They're interested in bringing on an onsite canning/bottling service; currently they have a mobile service come to them. Staff will work with the Chamber and local businesses to increase visibility and celebrate local success and grand openings are a great way to do that.

### Increased Online Services in Bloomfield

The Planning and Development Department has some early observations for improved services by the proposed new named Building and Land Use Department and associated divisions:

- a. There are multiple titles for this one department on various pages/searches throughout the site; these will be made consistent.
- b. Tax abatement applications and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) incentive applications should be added online.
- c. We will land use applications to our online permitting system like the building permits are, such as planning and zoning and design review board. Some of the templates are completed and just need implementation. All forms are online for download and printing, but other than building permits they are not fillable, processed or paid for online at this time.
- d. We would like to increase community engagement for the Plan of Conservation and Development and similar efforts such as creation of the Affordable Housing Plan – Jamboard and similar programs to collect input should be explored.
- e. We will explore whether roadway and safety applications are sufficient as they are online.
- f. What's under construction? We would like to add a section online with a few highlights/projects that are going on in town.
- g. We will consider adding an online complaint submittal system.
- h. If adopted, the small business loan and housing rehab applications will be online.

### Bloomfield Strategic Visioning and Plan of Conservation and Development

Two firms responded to a formal solicitation of request for proposals (RFP) which was due May 9<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be scheduled within the next two weeks. Both respondents propose a 12 month process for completion.

### GOMAN & YORK Revised Scope of Work

Staff and economic development consultants from Goman and York are meeting the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> to revise the scope of work to include amounts approved through the Adopted Budget and Community Investment Plan. Their work includes activities such as creation of a local development authority, acting as liaison to new and existing businesses and implementation and marketing of the Tax Increment Financing District program (TIF).

## Police

### New Police Building Feasibility Study

The Police Department initiated the Needs Assessment Feasibility Study with representatives from Techon Inc. The architectural firm was selected after a competitive process and will be evaluating the current facility, interviewing key decision makers, stakeholders, community members and employees before submitting a detailed report regarding the facility and future needs. We are very excited to have started the process and look forward to hearing from all stakeholders on their vision for the future of the department.

## Public Works

### Road Work as a Spring Priority

Public Works continues to focus on road work as a spring priority.

Road resurfacing of the following streets began on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> and will be completed by Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. The streets to be resurfaced by then are Duncaster Road, Deerfield Road, South Barn Hill Road (partial), Vistas Way, West Hill Road, Cadwell Road, Hill Farm Road, Hill To Circle, Latimer Lane, Filley Street, Wintonbury Avenue (partial Filley-School Street) and Mountain Road.

When resurfacing is completed additional work to be completed will include line striping, lawn restoration and cleanup. In addition Public Works will begin the reconstruction of the northern portion of Woodland Avenue on Wednesday May 25, 2022. This work will include the pulverization of the pavement, regrading, and final paving which is scheduled for June 2-3, 2022. We will be installing electronic signs to notify the public and also reaching out with written communications to neighbors and businesses in the area.

### State Projects

Public Works was invited to a pre-construction meeting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDot) for a culvert replacement project on Simsbury Road (Ct. Rte. 185) near the intersection of Watkins Road. The project will require a two-week road closure this summer. The specific time frame has not yet been identified.

### Public Works Community Events

We are working with other departments to work out details for the Memorial Day event and the Juneteenth celebration.

In cooperation with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Hazmat day will be held at the Public Works facility on Saturday May 21, 2022. This event is open to all residents of MDC communities. More information can be found here: <https://themdc.org/app/uploads/2022/01/2022-HazWaste-packet-FINAL.pdf>. In recognition of National Public Works Week Public Works will be conducting a food drive ("Stuff-A-Truck") 8:00 am – 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday at Geissler's supermarket located at 40 Tunxis Avenue. All proceeds will benefit the Bloomfield Social Services food bank.

## Items of Concern

Public Works has started to receive updated quotes for commodities and capital equipment approved as part of the FY 2023 Budget. It is becoming apparent that sharp increases due to inflation have occurred and can be expected to occur until such time as we take delivery of equipment. Two examples that we are aware of as of today:

- Six Wheel Heavy Plow Truck. The Town paid \$203,000 for the truck we took delivery of in March of this year. We budgeted \$215,000 in our capital budget submittal in December 2021. An updated quote in February of 2022 increased our cost to \$236,000. Our vendor notified us this week that the cost has now increased to \$252,044. Trucks take 8-10 months for fabrication and final delivery after the order is placed. We expect additional increases before final delivery.
- The diesel fuel contract expires on June 30, 2022. \$2.50/gal. was budgeted for FY 2023 (\$0.60 increase/gallon as recommended by our vendor). Preliminary indications are that a fixed price for the new contract will be significantly higher than budgeted. Prices currently are very high and the market is volatile as a result of inflation and the Russian/Ukraine war. We can lock in a per gallon price at any time during the term of the contract (7/1/22-6/30/23), and will do so if and when the market stabilizes. In the meantime, we will be paying 3.3 cents per gallon over the price on the OPIS Rack Average on the day of delivery. We communicate regularly with our supplier and will keep a close eye on the market, but we anticipate that even if we do lock in a fixed price, we will be paying substantially more than what was budgeted.

## **Senior Services**

### COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Senior Services partnered with the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District and presented two vaccination clinics in the Human Services Center this month. Plans are underway to present additional clinics in June, July and August.

### Saturdays at the Senior Center

The Senior Center 2nd Saturday event took place last weekend and included a continental breakfast, complimentary movie and bingo. Transportation is available for registered mini-bus riders.

### Multi-Media Drawing & Exploration Workshops

Bloomfield artist and instructor Dolores Howard will present two workshops (10:30 am - 1:00 pm) at the Senior Center this coming Saturday, May 21, and again on June 18.

### 6th Annual Casual Prom

Honor students from the University High School of Science & Engineering will be back at the Senior Center on Thursday, May 26 to present another casual prom. Eight years ago, students were surprised to learn that many individuals of their grandparents' generation never had the opportunity to attend a prom while they were in high school. They brainstormed and came up with the idea for a themed "casual prom," where participants could dress up or down and enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing (and food). The pandemic put this annual event on hold for two years but we are pleased to announce its return this month.

### [National Health & Fitness Week](#)

We have taken National Health & Fitness Day and expanded it into a weeklong event. Bloomfield "seniors" are encouraged to get out, get moving, and get walking during the week of May 23-27. For every day that they walk or exercise in any other way, a participant will earn a ticket for a drawing. Gift cards will be presented to three lucky winners.

### [Adult Disposable Undergarment Bank](#)

Beginning Wednesday, June 1, this important service will begin operating for Bloomfield neighbors. Faced with rising costs due to inflation, many individuals cannot afford to purchase this often-necessary item.

### [Multi-Media Drawing & Exploration Art Show](#)

There will be an art show at the Senior Center on Saturday, June 11 showcasing the work of Dolores Howard's art class.

## **Social and Youth Services**

### [Fair Rent Commissions – New Legislation – Effective October 1, 2022](#)

The State of Connecticut – General Assembly has recently passed new legislation requiring municipalities with populations 25,000 and over to create a Fair Rent Commission.

The Town of Bloomfield already has an active Fair Rent Commission with 5 Commissioners. The Fair Rent Commission is a quasi-judicial board who has the power to investigate complaints about rents, convene public hearings, issue subpoenas to force people to appear, and eventually force landlords to lower rents under certain circumstances.

As we continue to navigate the uptick in eviction and foreclosure stipulated judgments, the Fair Rent Commission can serve as another valuable resource for tenants who are facing excessive rental costs.

### [Energy Assistance](#)

Applications are still being accepted by Community Renewal Team (CRT) for all heating sources. Governor Lamont has extended the deadline to apply until June 30, 2022. He also announced the launch of the new online application to apply for heating and utility assistance. Please contact CRT at 860-560-2694 to schedule an appointment.

### Operation Fuel Winter/Spring Program

The program season ends on Friday, May 27, 2022. Accepting applications for all utilities, including water assistance and deliverable fuel services.

### Renters Rebate

Renter's Rebate Program is in full swing! Application period is from April 1, 2022 – October 1, 2022. Please contact Social & Youth Services at 860-242-1895 to schedule an appointment.

### Eviction/Foreclosure

We are experiencing an uptick in Eviction and Foreclosure Stipulated Judgments. Social & Youth Services will continue to monitor, advocate and provide assistance to those facing a housing crisis.

### Summer Camp Financial Assistance

Social & Youth Services is now accepting applications for financial assistance for summer camps with Leisure Services. Please contact Social & Youth Services at 860-242-1895 to apply.

### Youth Services

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Bloomfield Foster Care Network was a successful event. This event was held on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Human Services Center in The Great Room. There were many families, children, Town Councilors and staff in attendance for this momentous occasion.

### Summer Youth Employment

The Summer Youth Employment Program will run from July 5, 2022 through August 19, 2022. This program is funded for 22 slots through a grant from Capital Workforce Partners. Interviews will be conducted and participants will be selected in June.

## **Town Clerk**

### Question(s) on the ballot for November Election 2022?

September 8, 2022 is the last day for the Town Council to vote to approve a question (s) to appear on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 State Election. Bloomfield Town Charter Sec. 310 gives the authority for the Town to put the question(s) on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 State Election. September 23, 2022 is the last day for the Town Clerk to file with the Secretary of the State's Office a statement setting forth the designation of each question to be voted on as it will appear on the ballot, the date upon which the submitting action was taken, and a reference to the law under which such action was taken.

It is necessary for the Town to finalize all Town Council votes to approve the question on the ballot, the exact wording on how the question will appear on the ballot, the explanatory text and all paper work, resolutions etc. by the third week in August. This way there will be plenty of

time for the Town Clerk to get approval from Secretary of the State's Office and the Town Clerk to prepare the ballot to meet the September 15, 2022 deadline to issue blank ballots to servicepersons, spouses and dependents living outside the United States who have applied for an absentee ballot.

Very truly yours,

*Stanley D Hawthorne*

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