



Winter 2023

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Supervisor Todd Campbell

Hoping you had an enjoyable holiday and new year's. It was great to see so many of you at our Open House—thanks for coming and checking out our new Town Hall (finally!).

2022 was a full year for me and the Town Board, and I'd like to thank you for your attendance and support during our Board meetings. I would encourage anyone to attend a Town Board, Planning Board, or Zoning Board of Appeals meeting—you will learn more about how the Town operates and possibly find a place on one of the Boards if there is something that interests you.

The Town Board recently finished working on, and approving, the 2023 budget. We were able to decrease the Town tax rate and stay under the New York State Property Tax Cap.

During the snowplowing season, please remember to give our Highway Department operators room. They make more stops and turns than normal traffic, so we need to exercise caution while they are on the road.

I look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions or comments on Town issues. I can be reached via e-mail at [tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org) by phone at (585)624-2461 and am always willing to schedule an appointment if you'd like to meet in person.

## Town Contact Information

Website - [www.townofwestbloomfield.org](http://www.townofwestbloomfield.org)

### Contacts

Supervisor – Todd D Campbell (585) 624-2461 • [tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org)

Town Clerk/Tax Collector -Brenda Giglia (585) 624-2914 • [townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org)

Highway Superintendent - Jeff Ball, (585) 624-2900 • [highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org)

Assessor - Patricia Brede, (585) 624-9350 • [assessor@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:assessor@townofwestbloomfield.org)

Code Enforcement, (585) 624-2942 • [codeenforcementofficer@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:codeenforcementofficer@townofwestbloomfield.org)

Planning/Zoning, Dee DeSanctis (585)497-2544 • [planningzoningclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:planningzoningclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org)



### **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TOWN OF WEST BLOOMFIELD COURT**

**Due to recent changes to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic law, courts are no longer able to suspend a driver's license for failure to pay a fine. As a result of that change driver's licenses that have been suspended in the past, for failure to pay, have been reinstated by DMV. Due to this, the court is sending letters to those people advising that they still owe their fines & if the fine is not paid the court will order a civil judgement against them. This will impact their credit rating & possibly prevent them from signing a lease for an apartment or obtaining a credit card, etc.**

**Our Court Clerk is available at the office in the Town Hall from 9am to 10am on Tuesdays & Fridays.**

**The phone number is 585 624 9860. Please leave a message with your name & telephone number & we will return you call.**

**Court facilities are leased from the East Bloomfield Town Court and all procedures are held there. Courts Days are the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month for traffic and criminal proceedings. Civil matters are held on the 2nd Monday of each month.**

**Richard Whitesell**

**West Bloomfield Town Justice**

# Happy New Year from the Town Clerk's Office

**Wishing you a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year!** *Brenda Giglia*

## Tax Reminders & Information

Detailed information on how and where to pay your taxes can be found on your tax bill. Town and County taxes are due in January and are collected in the Town Clerk's Office (9097 Daylight Drive, West Bloomfield, NY). During the month of January, Canandaigua National Bank will accept **full** payments only.

### **State Law**

According to the Real Property Tax Law §922, the failure to mail a tax bill or the failure of a property owner to receive a tax bill will not affect the validity of the taxes or interest prescribed by law. Also, we are not legally allowed to change or rescind penalties.

### **Payment Information**

Please make sure your check is made out correctly, including pay to, date, and written and numerical amounts must match. Any checks incorrectly made out will be returned and may be subject to a penalty if received by the tax receiver after the penalty free period. We do not accept postdated checks; they will be returned and may be subject to penalties.

If payment is made by mail, the United States Postal Service postmark (not a postage meter mark) is used as the payment date (RPTL §925). If there is no postmark, the date received will be used as the payment date.

For your convenience, there is a drop box located at the Town Hall. Payments by **check** may be placed in the drop box. The drop box is checked daily by 9 A.M. on regular Town Clerk business days. Payments collected will be considered received on the prior business day.

The Town now accepts credit cards for municipal payments, including tax payments, fees will apply.

**In person or by mail:** As stated on the tax bill, please return the entire bill with your payment to receive a receipt, to: Town of West Bloomfield, Brenda Giglia – Tax Collector, PO Box 87, West Bloomfield, NY 14585

**Address Updates:** If at any time you change your current mailing address, please notify the Assessor's Office ([assessor@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:assessor@townofwestbloomfield.org)) and tax receiver ([townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org)) **in writing** so that the tax bills and receipts will be delivered properly, especially if your mailing address is different from the physical address of the property.

**Third Party Request:** Forms are available from the tax receiver for eligible property owners that wish to designate a third party to receive a duplicate tax bill.

### **General Information**

Upon payment of the taxes by the bank or mortgage company, the receipt is mailed directly to the homeowner within two to three weeks.

If you are responsible for paying the property taxes and have not received your town / county tax bill by mid-January, please contact the Tax Office (585-624-2914) immediately.

If you receive a bill in error (ex: no longer own the property), please notify and return the bill to the Tax Receiver's Office.





### **North Bloomfield Community Association** by Doreen Haller

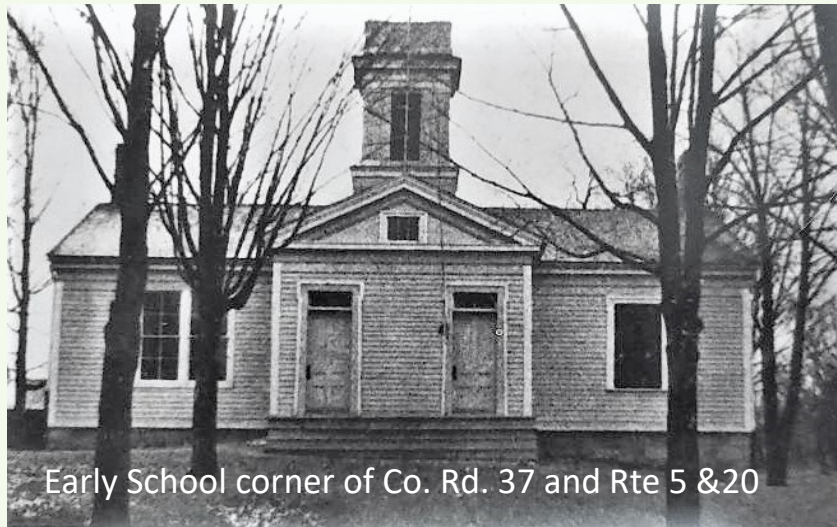
The Association is a group of volunteers that strives to preserve and share the heritage and history of North Bloomfield through the preservation and community use of the North Bloomfield Chapel. As we continue to improve the Chapel for the next century, we look forward to hosting many more events there. Former area residents are always welcome. Meetings are held from May to October at the Chapel, 1924 State Route 65.

We are continuing with our building enhancements to bring the Chapel to a sufficient level of sturdiness to have it last another 100+ years. We have already started by creating a more solid foundation in the back southwest corner of the building. We are looking at replacing some clapboards and painting the exterior in 2023. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with this project would be greatly appreciated. Contact Doreen Haller at 585-732-7545 for information.

Dues are \$10 per family, annually, and are paid on the honor system. Dues help offset our electrical bill and improvements at the Chapel. Please make your check payable to the **North Bloomfield Community Association** and mail it to: Doreen Haller/ NBCA/ 1891 State Route 65/ Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Doreen Haller at 585-732-7545 or [Doreen@treeskiers.com](mailto:Doreen@treeskiers.com).



It is important to remember that we are Town of West Bloomfield residents and that our town needs our support as much as we need theirs. It is easy to forget that we live in West Bloomfield as we have Honeoye Falls listed as both our mailing address and school district and is most likely, your shopping area. While we may enjoy the Honeoye Falls status, we have lower taxes due to being in Ontario County. We have no representation or input into Honeoye Falls or Monroe County, but we have plenty of opportunities within our town and county. There are a number of volunteer and/or elected board positions available and we need to have our area represented on these boards. Please consider volunteering your valuable time. Visit the Town of West Bloomfield website for opportunities and contact information.



Early School corner of Co. Rd. 37 and Rte 5 & 20

### **WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** by Suzanne Washburn

**2023 MEMBERSHIPS – FREE AND OTHERWISE:** Did you move to West Bloomfield in 2020 or later? Are you a high school senior living in West Bloomfield? We are offering free 2023 memberships to new residents and soon-to-be graduates for the full calendar year. If you love history but don't fit in these groups, join us for 2023 with a small membership fee. We offer monthly programs, exhibits, and special member events April through October – and historical research all year.

**Membership Categories:** Single (\$12) - Family (\$15) - Senior Age 60+ (\$10) - Business (\$25) - Single Lifetime (\$100) - Senior Lifetime for Couples age 70+ (\$150 couple) - Student (\$8) - New Resident (free) - High School Senior (free).

**To Join:** Send a check as indicated along with your name, address, phone number(s), email address, and membership category. Or print out a membership form at our website [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org). Mail your information and check to WBHS Membership, Box 173, W. Bloomfield NY 14585. Questions? Contact Mary at [mt2152@hotmail.com](mailto:mt2152@hotmail.com) or 585-657-7722.

**WHY HISTORY?** Our members truly enjoy programs, exhibits, and old buildings. But it's more than that. We learn much from the experience of those who came before us and how they faced the challenges of their times. West Bloomfield has been home to an amazing group of people dating back to 1789 – courageous settlers, war heroes, inventors, state and federal lawmakers, agricultural and business innovators, and religious leaders, along with nationally known artists, musicians, authors, and many hard-working residents. This is our heritage.

**WHAT A COMMUNITY!** That legacy lives on as our little town remains a special place in today's divided world. We have two active churches with food cupboards, dedicated volunteer firefighters who work together to help us at a moment's notice, a great Highway Department to keep us safe, generous business owners, a Scout Troop that works to improve WB, and good neighbors lending a hand.

**LEARN MORE.** WBHS exhibits and public events are open to all at no charge. Watch the Society website ([wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org)) and Facebook (West Bloomfield Historical Society New York) for our Spring opening. Or check for announcements in the Genesee Valley Penny Saver. For general questions, contact Sue at 657-7060 or [wash-brn@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wash-brn@rochester.rr.com). Reach Society and Town Historian Mike Borgeest through the website or call 585-624-7796. We hope to see you often!





**Ionia Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.** by Chief Lynn Parrish

With the holidays just behind us, what is coming is the colder weather. With soaring fuel prices, we are concerned there may be an increased number of people turning to wood this Winter as an alternative fuel to heat your home. We want to remind everyone to be careful when choosing this source of heat. Inexperience with wood burning and other space heating devices can lead to problems. Make sure to educate yourself on how to safely operate these devices and follow manufacturers recommendations when choosing alternative heating equipment.

Another important concern and an ongoing problem for us is the lack of visible house numbers. I work for a local school district frequently filling in as a substitute bus driver. It is extremely difficult to find bus stops in places where homes do not have house numbers visible at the road. While this is a problem any time of the day, it is especially difficult in the dark. It occurred to me this is even more serious for first responders trying to find an address all hours of the day and night. When you have an emergency, this issue only delays our arrival more. Some homes have house numbers only posted on the house. These are difficult if not impossible to see, especially in the dark. A number at the end of your driveway is the best location to help us find you. There are many options on the market for posting house numbers. Please make sure your house number is visible at the road.

We have been busy the last few months with several weather-related calls for trees and wires down blocking roads. Be careful if you see a downed wire. It may only be a telephone or cable wire, but you never know if it is contacting a power line. Be safe and stay away. Call the fire department or your local utility to come and check it out.

Don't forget, it's time to change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Both Ionia and West Bloomfield carry extra detectors to offer you when we find a faulty one. If you are in need and can't afford these safety devices, let us know.

Finally, we are always looking for new members in our community of West Bloomfield. Both Ionia and West Bloomfield departments can always use more help. We are 100% volunteer and we are here to serve our neighbors when you need help. Won't you consider helping us to help all of you? Contact West Bloomfield Chief Gary Lewis or Ionia Chief Lynn Parrish through the department websites <http://www.westbloomfieldfiredept.org> or <https://ioniafireco.org>.

## **WEST BLOOMFIELD SCOUT TROUP 56 & CUP PACK 56** By Committee Chair Tim Schiefen

The second Saturday of November was our pick-up date for "Scouting for Food," and this year was our largest collection in my memory – 104 cartons of food. We used mailers to notify folks and reach all the rooftops in the township. Due to delivery routes, some residents in Victor, Richmond, Lima, and East Bloomfield also received notice and left food for us to pick up.

We invested in mailers instead of dropping off flyers because it saves time, effort, and fuel. The benefit to the community was clear, so please remember our fund-raising serves more than just our Scouts. We provided most of the collected food to the F.I.S.H. food pantry connected to St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeoye Falls. We also supplied food to the Ionia United Methodist Church and West Bloomfield Congregational Church pantries. In 2023 our leaders will network with all three food pantries to help serve their needs.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated non-perishable items, and to our Scouts and parents. We also thank the Scouts and leaders of Mendon's Troop 105 who have been working with us due to low numbers in both towns.

It does look like our Troop & Pack 56 will survive another year! We always wish for more youth and parents to join us, but we have enough in each unit to meet minimum numbers to re-charter. I spoke with many at our sign-ups and with some new families in town, and we're still working to urge folks to give our program a chance. So I am introducing a "where have they gone?" segment for the Focus. In 20 years as a Scout leader, I've had the chance to recruit and meet many dynamic young people. It will blow your mind to learn where some are today.

As I was transitioning from a Cub Leader to an Assistant Scoutmaster, I got to know Ray Dreimiller Jr. while hosting the Automotive Maintenance badge at my auto repair shop. I noticed how bright and knowledgeable he was -- he knew the subject enough that he could have led the session.

Ray had a fantastic family environment and learned a great deal about a variety of interests, including aviation. One day he gave me a picture of a yellow airplane and said, "This is my plane which I am learning to fly." I asked if it was the plane I saw regularly circling over my repair shop. It was! I believe Ray earned his pilot license before he graduated high school. When I saw him a few years later he shared that he was working for American Airlines as a pilot. Today he flies the American Eagle to Washington DC. When Ray Sr. had a chance to take the flight, he was proud to record his son on the plane's PA system introducing himself as the captain.

Watch for more stories in the Focus about former Scouts who, like Ray, continue to reach for the stars!







## Millers Corners Cemetery by Wayne Parrish

**Save the date:** The annual 2023 cemetery meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of March at 7:00 PM at the Ionia Fire Hall.

Check the Penny Saver a week or two ahead of this date in case there has been a change to the date, time, or location of the meeting.

Attention lawn mowing contractors: A contractor will be selected at this annual meeting. You need to send your bid to the superintendent, Larry Evans, prior to the meeting. His address is PO Box 58, Ionia NY 14475. If you have questions regarding lawn mowing requirements, contact Larry at 585-624-4993.



**The vault:** Attached to this article is a picture of the cemetery vault that is seldom used any more. Back in the day virtually everyone was buried in a wooden casket and the graves were all dug by hand. During the winter months when the ground was frozen, the caskets were stored in this vault until Spring when the ground thawed, and graves could once again be dug. Now equipment is available that can dig through frozen ground and most families want their loved one buried shortly after death. Hence, the vault is seldom used any more.

**LASTLY:** If you wish to purchase a lot or schedule the installation of a monument, please contact the Superintendent, Larry Evans, at 585-624-4993.

As always, donations would be gratefully accepted at any time from anyone.  
Mail donations to Millers Corners Cemetery, PO Box 52, Ionia NY 14475



# I ONIA WOMEN'S CLUB

by Mary Twardokus

The Ionia Women's Club welcomes all women living in the Ionia area to their meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. This group began many decades ago (probably in the 1940s) as a Home Bureau Cooperative Extension unit. It was revived in the 1960s as the "Ionia Homemakers" and evolved into the Women's Club. The Homemakers created one of the first glass recycling programs in Ontario County.

The basic purpose of the club has remained the same – to share friendships, homemaking skills, cooking, crafts, to keep abreast of the current trends, community action, and to give back to the community. We continue to make dresses for the international organization "Dress A Girl" and surgery caps for the children at Golisano Children's Hospital and donate our collection of items to various local not-for-profits, such as pet and school supplies and Christmas baskets. We are gathering again and re-starting programs and field trips. For information on joining the gatherings, call Mary Twardokus 657-7722.

## WEST BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**The West Bloomfield Fire Department is the long time sponsor of Boy Scout Troup 56. So it was only fitting that their facility on County Road 37 served as a distribution center the Scouts most recent Food Drive. Be sure to also read the Boy Scouts page regarding what a great success this drive was once again this year! It takes a great deal of volunteers, coordination and hard work to make these work. So a big thank you to the fire department and the many volunteers.**



# ALLENS HILL FREE LIBRARY

By Library Director Christine Green

The Allens Hill Free Library has many materials to enjoy throughout the long New York winter weather! We have added many new books to our adult and children's collection, along with both new and classic DVDs. Our Makerspace for kids includes fun craft and building materials. We provide monthly Make & Takes for children and exciting programs for patrons of all ages. In the spring we will continue our local author series with a focus on John Nicholas Norton, William Henry Shelton, and Orsamus Turner. We will also have brand new books on our Storywalk® as soon as the weather permits.

The library is just 6 miles south of the West Bloomfield Town Hall on County Road 40! We provide print and non-print materials and services to the community, and act as a center for learning, information gathering, and leisure reading. In addition to books for all ages, we have DVDs, CDs, video games, board games, and many other materials to borrow. We also have internet access inside and outside the building, computers for patron use, and printing services.

Check our website and social media for details on future events. We would be thrilled to provide you with a library card if you don't already have one. Stop by and visit us soon!

Hours: Tuesday 6-8 - Wednesday 3-6:30 - Friday 2:30-8 - Saturday 1-4

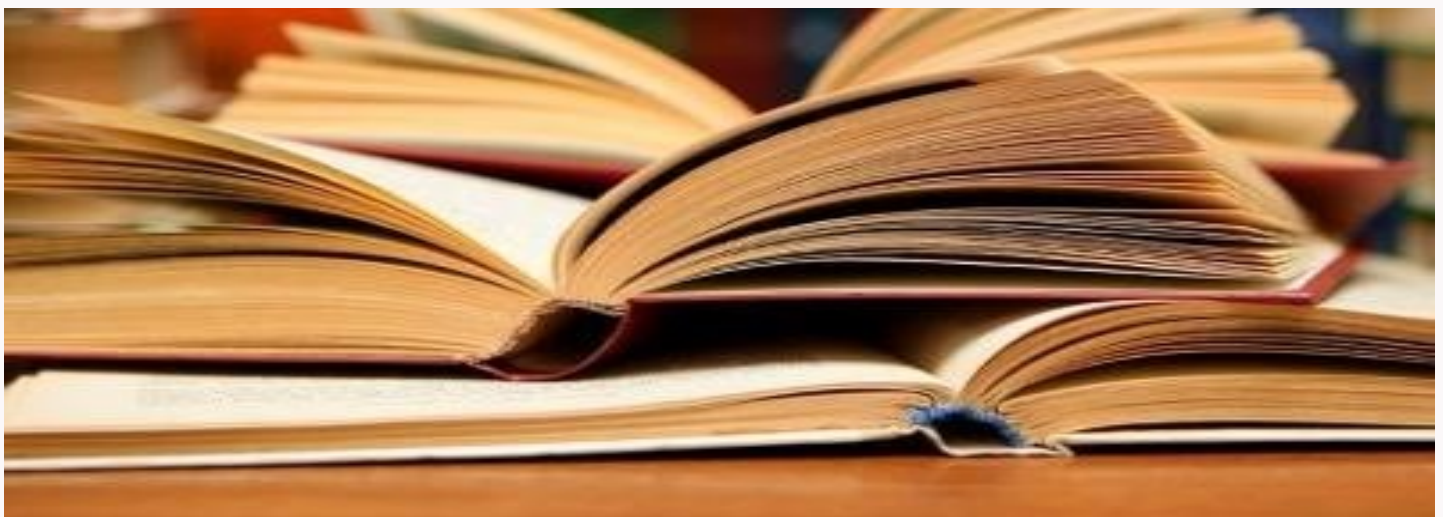
Phone: (585) 229-5636 Address: 3818 County Road 40, Bloomfield, NY 14469

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/allenshillfreelibrary>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AHFLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/AHFLibrary)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ahflibrary>

(The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.)





## **Ionia United Methodist Church** by Mary Twardokus

At the Ionia United Methodist Church, 2120 Elton Road in Ionia, all are welcome to our services, fellowship times, and events! Sunday Worship is now held at 9:30 AM with a “Coffee/ Fellowship Time” following the service. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, we hold Birthday Sunday, celebrating people whose birthdays are in that month. On the last Sunday of each month, our church family holds a Pot-Luck Brunch after our worship service, with lots of good food and fellowship.

Check out the information and the photos on our website [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org) and on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY](http://www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY)

**Lenten Activities:** Our Pastor will be holding a Lenten Bible Study in March. All are welcome to attend one or all the sessions. Watch our calendar for Lenten/ Easter services and events.

We will also hold a couple Game/ Movie/Pot-Luck Supper nights again this winter. It is always a fun night together.

**You may drop redeemable pop cans & bottles** into the crate behind the church and 100% of the redemption money is used toward our church’s missions!

Those pop cans and bottles do add up. Thanks to the generous efforts of our community in 2022 we have collected 1504 cans and bottles with a result of \$ 810.50. Because of the amazing number of cans and bottles received we have made donations to: Rochester's Open Door Mission, Heifer Project International, Heifer's Water Project, UMCOR's Flood, Ukraine, and Tornado relief (100% of donations to UMCOR go directly to relief efforts), Water for South Sudan, Family Promise of Ontario County, Ontario County Habitat for Humanity, Ionia Fire Dept., Victor UMC's Clothes Closet, Tunnels to Towers, and Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. You can continue to drop off pop cans and bottles, but please empty and rinse them before donating and then place them in plastic bags! Thank you!

We want to thank our whole community for their incredible support this year – dropping off cans and bottles, and coming to our socials, dinners, rummage sale, Fall Festival, and Holiday Fair Craft Show!



# COMMUNITY FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

9097 DAYLIGHT DRIVE

WEST BLOOMFIELD NY 14585

## ECRWSS Postal Customer

**Editors: Michael C Borgeest & Suzanne Washburn**

**Contact Us @ 585 624 7796 and [WBHSNY.ORG](http://WBHSNY.ORG)**

CONTRIBUTOR DEADLINES FOR 2023

March 5 (covers April-June )      June 5 (covers July-Sept )

Sept. 5 ( covers Oct-Dec )      Dec. 5 (covers Jan—March 2024 )

## Driving in Winter Weather

### The Basics

Slow down. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. In fact, in 2020, there were an estimated 119,000 police- reported crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.

Don't crowd a snowplow or travel beside the truck. Snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

### What to Do in an Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself and your passengers, your car, and your surroundings.

Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.

Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.

Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.