



COMMUNITY FOCUS

SPRING 2023

TOWN SUPERVISOR Todd Campbell

Hello, and welcome to Spring! March certainly came in like a lion this year with several weather events early in the month. Hopefully the end of the month will have shown us the lamb side. Stop by the Town Hall and see the Town Clerk, Brenda Giglia, if you need a permit for Boughton Park or have questions about using the fields or pavilion in Michael Prouty Park. We are also happy to share some new display items from the Historical Society in the lobby of the Town Hall—please take some time to read and view them when you stop in.

The Town will be starting our review and update of our Comprehensive Plan (paused due to COVID).

Please send me an e-mail if you are interested in being on the committee. This is a long-term plan that helps to set the future direction of the Town and covers many different topics from land use, infrastructure, zoning, recreation, housing, to historic resources and other community topics. One area of discussion will also involve the future of the County landfill (currently contracted through 2028) and our own transfer facility.

We are in the planning stages for the Memorial Day parades. I invite you to contact me if you have any questions or would like to be involved.

Please take some time to review the Town's website www.townofwestbloomfield.org. We are always updating it with information about activities in our area in the calendar section, and also have a posting about the County's hazardous materials/electronics recycling/shredding/tire events.

We are always looking for interested residents to fill positions on our planning, zoning, and assessment boards (we have two alternate positions for each board), and on committees that help guide the Town Board and future direction of the town. My door is open when I am here in the town hall—please stop in and see me, or send an e-mail if you have interest in serving on a committee or one of our boards.

I can be reached at 585-624-2461, or via e-mail at tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org

Todd D. Campbell, Supervisor

Town Website: www.townofwestbloomfield.org

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT Jeff Ball

This winter has been calm with about 30 inches of snow to date – 51 inches short of our normal seasonal snowfall by the end of February. Most local storms have been reduced by rain, sleet, and snow mix. Keep in mind that March is a weather wildcard. It was this week in 1991 that we were hit by a massive ice storm that paralyzed our community and left over 300,000 people without power for up to 14 days. This is a good reminder to consider the Boy Scout Motto “Be prepared” with flashlights, batteries, food, and water for two weeks.

Despite low snowfall this winter our Highway Department has been busy with maintenance, repairs, and building projects. The new highway office addition is mostly complete, and I was able to occupy the space on February 27. This work has been done by the highway employees at a great savings to the community. Feel free to stop in and see the addition any time during our working hours.

We took possession of a new 10-wheel plow truck on January 4. Anyone trying to buy a new truck these days knows the challenges we face – the biggest problems being inventory shortages, rising prices, and uncertainty of delivery dates. Preferably our new trucks arrive by August and give us time to work out any problems. Having a truck delivered in January is not optimum, but it’s the world we live in now. We’ve been very limited in our ability to order pickup trucks, but hopefully that will change soon.

We no longer offer brush pile grindings, but there is a small pile of “rough” grindings at the Highway Garage if anyone’s interested. If you have a trailer, we can load it for you. Contact me to coordinate.

The Transfer Station is open the 2nd & 4th Saturday each month – March through November, and the 2nd Saturday each month – December through February. A free permit for town residents is available from the Town Clerk. Check the Town website, www.townofwestbloomfield.org, for Transfer Station rules and special collection events that Ontario County offers throughout the year.

With Spring right around the corner, the highway crew will soon start road repairs, including oil and stone, cold mix paving, culvert replacement, and ditch cleaning. I will list those projects on the Town website in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding highway matters, feel free to contact me at email – highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org or office phone – 585-624-2900.



Our highway workers take pride in keeping the equipment properly maintained and ready to keep the roads well plowed and safe.

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE Brenda Giglia

Overview of Services & Duties

Clerk to the Town Board West Bloomfield Town Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, at the West Bloomfield Town Hall. Meeting minutes are taken by the Town Clerk, retained permanently as historical records of the Town of West Bloomfield, and published for the public within the parameters required by law.

Tax Collector Town and County taxes are collected in the Town Clerk's office January through March of each year. School taxes are collected by the School Districts in the fall. Unpaid taxes after March 31st of each year are handled by Ontario County at 585-396-4432.

Registrar of Vital Statistics Records on file are for marriages, births, and deaths that have occurred in the Town of West Bloomfield. Application for such records must be strictly done by the legal procedures. Please contact the Town Clerk for each particular situation. These records are protected by privacy laws.

Marriage Licenses Must be obtained at least 24 hours prior to ceremony and are valid for 60 days. Raised seal birth certificate and picture ID for bride and groom are required along with official picture ID. A certified proof of how/when previous marriage(s) ended, must be presented at time of application.

Conservation Licenses The Town Clerk's office serves as an agent for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. All persons must appear in person for licenses and doe permits. The NYS DEC website can be of assistance for any particular questions. (www.dec.ny.gov)

Handicap Parking Permits are issued by the Town Clerk (both permanent and temporary). Certification must be provided on a NYS Department of Motor Vehicle form MV-664.1. All applicants must be residents of the Town of West Bloomfield to be eligible for a permit from the Town Clerk.

NYS Dog Licenses All dogs in the Town of West Bloomfield must be licensed by the age of six months old. Fees are \$20.50 for an un-spayed/un-neutered dog and \$12.50 for a spayed/neutered dog. Proof of rabies vaccination and spay/neuter certificate must be presented. The Town of West Bloomfield has no dog control officer, but contracts with Ontario County. The Ontario County Humane Society number is 585-396-4590.

Records Management Officer The Town Clerk is the custodian of all Town records, responsible for active files, storage and disposition of inactive records, and the careful maintenance of archival material.

Administrator of Freedom of Information Law This law guarantees your right to know the workings of the government.

Hours of Operation:

Monday 8:30 am to 4 pm – (closed Noon-1pm)
Tuesday 8:30 am to 4 pm – (closed Noon-1pm)
Wednesday 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 pm to 12:00 pm

THE TOWN OF WEST BLOOMFIELD is seeking

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBERS

THE BOARD MEETS **ONCE A YEAR** IN MAY.

A THREE-HOUR PAID TRAINING WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE FIVE-YEAR TERM.

Qualifications The Real Property Tax Law requires that members of the board of assessment review have knowledge of property values in the assessing unit.

Members of the board of assessment review constitute local public officers, and are required to be at least 18 years old, citizens of the United States and residents of the assessing unit which the board serves (Public Officers Law, section 3).

Oath of Office



Each member of the board is required to take and file an oath of office. Oaths of local public officers are filed with the clerk of the city or town in which the board serves. In counties having county assessment, oaths are filed with the county clerk. Failure to take or file in a timely manner the oath of office will result in the office being considered vacant (Public Officers Law, section 30).

PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.
THE TOWN ASSESSOR CAN EXPLAIN THE POSITION AND THE TRAINING IN MORE DETAIL.

TOWN CLERK, BRENDA GIGLIA 585-624-2914

TOWN ASSESSOR, PATRICIA BREDE 585-624-9350

Please leave a message if we do not answer, and we will get back to you.



West Bloomfield & Ionia Volunteer Fire Co. responded to save this home in January.

IONIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, Inc.

CHIEF LYNN PARRISH

In the last issue, I mentioned the potential for more chimney fires due to higher fuel prices and use of alternative heating equipment. I'm happy to report we had no chimney fires since the last edition was printed. Kudos to all who may have used alternative heating equipment the last few months.

Our call volume the last few months has been normal but included a devastating house fire in January for a family on Conn Road. Your volunteers from West Bloomfield and Ionia, along with help from neighboring departments, did a valiant job in preventing the flames from consuming the entire house. This is one of those situations where the call came in during the middle of the day and there was limited manpower available from all departments. It is an example of why folks should consider volunteering with their local fire department. Not everyone has to be a smoke-eater and enter a burning building. There is a need for people to work outside as well. Fortunately, many of the calls we respond to do not involve such a major fire.

On a positive note, at Ionia's January meeting, we celebrated four of our members who have or will celebrate birthdays in their 80s this year. All are still active, and the numbers on the cake represent the years of service each has to the fire company. Together, they have a combined total of 213 years of service – another example of the commitment this generation had and still has to their community.

As Spring unfolds, everyone has the urge to get outside and start cleaning property of leaves, branches, and other debris that may have accumulated over the Winter. Please remember, there is a burn ban in New York State that begins March 16th and runs until May 14th. This annual burn ban includes burn barrels. If you choose to have a campfire during this time, be sure it is in a contained area suitable for such purposes. When in doubt, the best practice is to refrain from such activities until late May.

As always, we are looking for new members in our community of West Bloomfield. Both Ionia and West Bloomfield can always use more help. Contact West Bloomfield Chief Gary Lewis or Ionia Chief Lynn Parrish through the department websites www.westbloomfieldfiredept.org or www.ioniafireco.org. 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? BE SAFE!!



Please congratulate and thank these four active Ionia members for their 213 combined years of service to our community

Left to right, Stuart (Andy) Toombs, Bill Washburn, Dan Broadwell, and Gary Evans

THANK YOU INDEED

WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Suzanne Washburn

Visit us at 8966 Rt. 5 & 20 in the former St. Joseph's Church as our 2023 season opens with monthly events and new exhibits. Unless noted "for members," our events are open to all. We'll post announcements on our website (wbhsny.org), on Facebook (West Bloomfield Historical Society, New York), and in the Genesee Valley Pennysaver.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE AT THE SOCIETY – Sat., July 8 (9 AM – 4 PM) & Sun., July 9 (9 AM-1 PM):

Our primary fund raiser is now in its 4th decade! As always, you'll find bargains outside and in, vendors on the lawn, and food. Last year's sale was our best ever because of your donations and support.

As you clean out this Spring, please hold on to some good quality items and bring them to the Society on the Donation Days listed above. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Send them to WBHS, PO Box 173, West Bloomfield NY 14585.

Call 585-755-5464 if you need pick-up or if you are donating a large or special item that needs to be stored ahead of time. We do have some limited storage space and may be able to accommodate.

Please, no clothing, particle board or large upholstered furniture, TVs, computers, cribs or car seats.

Have your own Yard Sale on our lawn: Space rentals for the whole weekend are \$15 for members or \$25 for non-members. For more information, email lauraadpearce@gmail.com or call 585-657-7060.

OUR COLLECTION COMMITTEE is at work organizing the artifacts in storage and creating new exhibits for 2023. We're making amazing discoveries along the way and gaining new appreciation for those who have entrusted us with their family pieces. The Hotchkiss/Wing, Hall, Wood, Parrish, and Schlenker families deserve special thanks for donating hundreds of artifacts over the years.

SEEKING NEW MEMBERS IN 2023. Find a membership form at wbhsny.org or at the Town Hall. If you moved to WB in 2020 or later OR if you are a high school senior – your first year is free!



Tuesday, April 18, 7 pm: Program at the Society, “The West Bloomfield General Store.” Share your memories of the old store on Rt. 5 & 20, now being re-stored by Alicia & Todd Campbell. The Campbells will present historical information and early photos of the building, but they’re looking for recollections and stories from longtime residents. If you have photos of the store (interior or exterior), bring them along to share as well. Join us!

Tuesday, May 2, 7 pm: Program at the Society, “In the Footsteps of Daniel Bissell,” (how U.S. military medals came to be) with historian Preston Pierce. Bissell received the forerunner of the Purple Heart directly from George Washington and then settled in Honeoye. We invite you to bring military awards from your own family for a one-night display.

Friday, May 19, 1:30 pm: Group Tour of Ontario County Archives. Call 585-657-7060 for details.

Monday, May 29, 9 am-noon: Memorial Day – We will be open all morning.

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 pm: Picnic at the Society for members and their guests

June 24 – July 1: Yard Sale Donation Days. Sat., June 24 (9 am-Noon) – Mon., June 26 (2-7 pm) – Tues., June 27 (2-7 pm) – Wed., June 28 (2-7 pm) – Sat., July 1 (9 am-Noon)

NORTH BLOOMFIELD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Debbie Jahn, Secretary

1941 NY Route 65

Honeoye Falls, N.Y. 14472

Cemetery Superintendent 585-624-1823

Plots for sale, \$650

Upcoming Events:

Spring Clean-up, Saturday, May 13, 9:00-noon

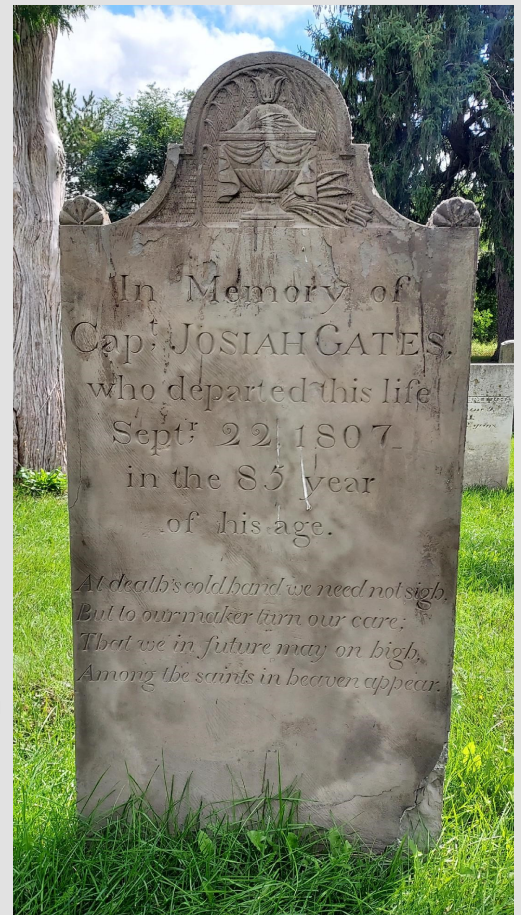
Memorial Day Parade & Brunch, Monday, May 29, 8:30
am

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 13, 6:00 pm at the North
Bloomfield Chapel

The North Bloomfield Cemetery, No. 35-021, was established in 1804 and then incorporated in May 1870. This picturesque property was originally donated by Captain Josiah Gates' family. There are approximately 140 veterans buried there beginning with the French and Indian War through current conflicts. Every Memorial Day at 8:30 AM a small parade and the reading of each veteran's name, along with a gun salute, commemorates their sacrifice. Please join us this Memorial Day, May 29, 2023. Take a walk-through history in our cemetery! Bring a breakfast treat to share at brunch immediately following the parade in the North Bloomfield Chapel across from the cemetery. Meet your neighbors and thank our public servants.

Most people do not realize that these country cemeteries are run and maintained by the volunteering of community people who live in and around the cemeteries. It has been challenging to keep these cemeteries viable as their only sources of income are donations and sales of plots and volunteers. More and more cemeteries are being abandoned to the towns and villages they lie within. Please consider helping a few hours a year or serving on the board at one of the local cemeteries.

Find further information and photos at www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com or look up "North Bloomfield Cemetery" on Google Maps. Please consider joining us at our next annual meeting on June 13, 2023, at 6 PM in the North Bloomfield Chapel on Route 65 just north of the cemetery.



MILLERS CORNERS CEMETERY

Wayne Parrish

Memorial Day: A brief ceremony is scheduled currently for Monday, May 29th at 8:30 AM.

This spring when placing flowers and plants on the graves, they must be potted. Any items permanently planted in the ground will be removed as allowed by NYS Cemetery Law. Also, by local policy, memorial lights are NOT allowed at any time in the cemetery.

We are required by state law to maintain two funds:

The first is a General Fund which is used to pay for the maintenance of the cemetery. This would include such expenses as lawn mowing, new flags, shed and vault repairs, etc. A portion of each lot sale and each interment is put in this fund.

The second is a Permanent Maintenance Fund. Once the General Fund is depleted, this fund is turned over to the Town Board and they are responsible for maintaining the cemetery to a minimal level. By state law 10% of each lot sale and \$35 for each interment is added to this fund. The interest from this fund can be transferred to the General Fund but the principle must remain in this fund.

In the interest of keeping our local cemetery well maintained it is important that the Millers Corners Cemetery Board does not deplete the General Fund. Until last year, the expenses have exceeded the income every year for quite a few years. Thankfully, last year we received some donations which allowed our income to exceed our expenses. We are also grateful to Extreme Landscape, 585Tree, and the Town Highway Dept. for the tree clean-up, and to the Evans family for the new sign.

Donations may be sent to: Millers Corners Cemetery, PO Box 52, Ionia NY 14475

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

NORTH BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Doreen Haller

Thank you to all who have contacted me about volunteering. We do appreciate your time and assistance. Our first meeting is Wednesday, April 19th, at the North Bloomfield Chapel (1924 State Rt. 65) at 7 PM. We'll use this meeting to organize the Memorial Day parade and to plan for repairs and repainting the outside of the building this year. While everyone used the Pandemic to spruce up outside of their homes, it's time to spruce up the outside of our building as well. Our next meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, May 17th, at 7 PM. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from April until October and look forward to you joining us!

Please join us for our Memorial Day parade as well. The parade starts at 8:30 sharp at the corner of State Rt. 65 and Quaker Meeting House Rd. We host a brunch afterwards, so please bring a dish to share. Coffee, orange juice, and water are provided. We thank Bob and Carol Lee Nagle for all the years of being our coffee hosts. If anyone would like to step up and be our coffee server, we would greatly appreciate it.

IONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mary Twardokus

At the Ionia United Methodist Church, 2120 Elton Road in Ionia, all are welcome to our services, fellowship times, and events! Find complete information about the church and its activities on our website, www.ioniaumc.org, and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY.

Sunday Worship is now held at 9:30 am with “Coffee/ Fellowship Time” after the service.

The 2nd Sunday of each month is Birthday Sunday, celebrating those with birthdays in that month.

The last Sunday of each month, our church family holds a Pot-Luck Brunch after the worship service, with lots of good food and fellowship.

In March, we plan another Movie and/or Game Afternoon or Evening for families, couples, & singles!

Tuesdays at 10:00 am., February 28th until Easter, our Pastor will hold a Lenten Bible Study at church. All are welcome to attend one or all the sessions. Bring your bible for this Lectionary Bible study.

February 26th through March 26th. Our 2023 Lenten Sunday Sermon Series is “Learning to Live Inside Out.” Full details about the series appear in our church newsletter on the website.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd will be Holy Communion Sunday

Good Friday, April 7th - Tenebrae Service at 12 noon. Following the service, the sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection with scripture and a slide show till 6:00 pm.

Easter Sunday, April 9th - 9:30 am Easter Worship with an Easter Breakfast to follow.

Future 2023 Calendar Dates:

Strawberry Social on Thursday, June 15th

Fall Festival on Saturday, September 16th

Holiday Fair Craft Show on Saturday, November 18th



You may drop off redeemable pop cans & bottles in the crate or trash cans behind the church. 100% of the redemption money goes toward our church's missions! Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have collected 3,099 cans & bottles so far this year leading to donations to: Heifer Project International (purchase of an entire Ark of animals and the Water Project); Rochester's Open Door Mission; UMCOR's Flood, Ukraine, and Tornado relief efforts (100% of donations go directly to relief efforts!); and Water for South Sudan, When you drop off cans and bottles, please empty and rinse them and then place them in plastic bags. Thank you!

WEST BLOOMFIELD CONGEGATIONAL CHURCH

Pastor Corey Keyes & Sarah Williams, Program Director

9035 Routes 5 & 20, West Bloomfield

Phone 585-624-1313, Website - wbccucc.org

West Bloomfield Congregational Church UCC meets on Sunday mornings at 10 am for inspiring worship, song, and discussion. Services are also livestreamed on our Facebook page, "West Bloomfield UCC."

We maintain a 24-7 food shelf in the alcove at the south side of the building, accessed by the metal ramp. We also hold a once a month "grocery store" style food giveaway. Watch our Facebook page for notices and dates concerning our food giveaways. Donations are also always accepted! Please call the church if you are having a food emergency, 585-624-1313.

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7 pm. Quiet contemplative service followed by a simple soup meal.

Easter Sunday, April 9th. Continental Breakfast at 9 am, Egg Hunt at 9:45, Service at 10 am.



Ionia Women's Club

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 1940's) as a Home Bureau Cooperative Extension group. The basic purpose of the club has remained the same – to share friendships, homemaking skills, cooking, crafts, to keep abreast of current trends, community action, and to give back to our community. We continue to make dresses for the international organization "Dress a Girl," make surgery caps for the children at Golisano Children's Hospital, and donate items such as school supplies, pet supplies, and Christmas baskets to local not-for-profits,

February: We had a good time planting seeds into plastic containers, creating winter seed beds for flowers to transplant in the spring!

March: A member will share her experiences visiting England and sharing their culture.

April 19: We will hold our annual dinner out at a local restaurant

May 17, 7 pm: A Swiss Rotary exchange student will speak about her native land.

In May we also hope to have a field trip to the Tree Peony Festival in Linwood, NY

For information on joining in on the gatherings, call Mary Twardokus 657-7722.



ALLENS HILL FREE LIBRARY

Christine Green, Library Director

The Allens Hill Free 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 other materials to borrow. We also have internet access inside and outside the building, computers for patron use, and printing services.

Spring 2023 Offerings: 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. Additional Spring programs include a puzzle exchange, a wellness series that includes making miniature Zen gardens and stress balls, and an art class series including alcohol inks and other mediums.

We have added many new books to our adult and children's collection, along with new and classic DVDs. Our Makerspace for kids and adult coloring materials are always available. We provide monthly Make & Takes for children and exciting programs for patrons of all ages. Check out our website and social media for more details on future events. We would be thrilled to provide you with a library card if you don't already have one.



Our hours have changed to better accommodate patrons. Stop by and visit us soon!

Hours: Tuesday 3:00-6:00. Wednesday, 3:00-6:00, Friday 3:00-8:00, Saturday 1:00-4:00

Phone: (585) 229-5636

Address: 3818 County Road 40, Bloomfield, NY 14469

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



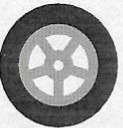

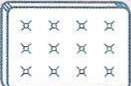

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AHFLibrary Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ahflibrary>

(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.)

ONTARIO COUNTY

2023 SPECIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For details preregister at: OntarioCountyRecycles.org

Household Hazardous Waste 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	4/22	Landfill	7am to 3pm	3/27 - 4/20
	9/16	T. Farmington Highway Facility	7am to 3pm	8/14 - 9/7
Electronic Waste 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	5/20	T. Bristol Highway Facility	8am to 2pm	4/24 - 5/18
	10/14	Landfill	8am to 2pm	9/18 - 10/12
Tires 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	5/6	T. Canandaigua Highway Facility	8am to 11am	4/17 - 5/3
	7/22	T. South Bristol Highway Facility	8am to 11am	7/3 - 7/19
	9/9	T. Gorham Highway Facility	8am to 11am	8/21 - 9/6
Paper Shredding 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	4/14	County Transportation Center	10:30am to 1:30pm	N/A
	6/17	T. Bristol Highway Facility	8am to 11am	5/29 - 6/15
	10/6	County Transportation Center	10:30am to 1:30pm	N/A
Mattress 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	6/3	T. Farmington Highway Facility	8am to 12pm	5/8 - 6/1
	8/26	T. Geneva Highway Facility	8am to 12pm	7/31 - 8/24
Pumpkin 	Event Date	Location	Time	Registration Accepted
	11/4	Canandaigua & Geneva	8am to 11am	N/A
	11/11	Canandaigua & Geneva	8am to 11am	N/A

SCOUT TROOP 56 News

Tim Schiefen, Committee Chair

Our Scouts have been busy this winter and recently participated in this year's "Yeti Games," a weekend event with outdoor activities built around snow and ice. It's a new twist on what we used to call the Klondike Derby. Our Troop competed in several activities, with Kyler Mohr winning the snow snake activity with the longest run of 296 feet (206 feet further than the competition). What is a snow snake? Well, it's a long slim piece of wood made to look like a snake. You pitch it like a bowling ball, down a long trough made of ice and snow. Years ago, our troop visited Ganondagan in Victor in winter and learned about the Native Americans and how they used snow snakes.

Pancakes: Many thanks to those who patronized our recent Pancake Breakfast! As usual we had a nice turn out to help our Scouts raise funds for a spring trip to Washington DC. Extra thanks to those who made generous donations as well!

Welch Hall Update: Our Scoutmaster and Committee Chair have made a deal on a 20' shipping container from Viola Storage, to be delivered to the West Bloomfield Fire Department in March. Once on site behind the firehouse, our Scouts will begin to outfit it with shelves and then move all the gear and accumulations from Welch Hall. After all these years, our Troop will now reside at the location of our charter organization. We thank the Town for putting up with us so long at the Highway Department.

Scouts and Cubs 2023: Troop and Pack 56 have both re-chartered for 2023 and will survive one more year despite declining enrollment. I would still invite interested persons to contact us, the BSA, or the West Bloomfield Fire Department for information on our fantastic programs.

We truly would like to find a Cub Master and other adults to help re-organize our Cub Scout program. To learn more, call me at (585) 509-1350.



Scouts serve pancakes at West Bloomfield Fire House

SCOUT TROOP 56

Where are they now ?

In this installment of our new segment, please meet former scout Matt Geffel. In my first year as Assistant Scoutmaster, I met Gary Geffel, Scoutmaster and father of Steve, Matt, and David. Matt was a quiet, well-behaved young man of few words. We were concerned for him as he would sit quietly off to one side and not always participate with the other Scouts. Matt was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome (on the Autism Spectrum) and after a time he no longer came to meetings.

I lost track of Matt until years later when a young adult walked into my shop and said, "Hello Mr. Schiefen." I looked up and recognized an adult Matt Geffel. I responded "Matt? Matt Geffel?" Matt and I shared more words that day than ever before. We spoke for some time and Matt explained he had graduated from college at SUNY Geneseo and earned a degree in Cartography. He now worked for TomTom and traveled the "hemisphere" chasing down travel routes that were not displayed properly. After making an appointment to get his car inspected, Matt informed me that he was next going to Newfoundland. He had to drive there to find a few routes that needed to be determined so TomTom could provide proper directions. Just wait until you see his Mobile direction-finding car!

Another fine example of a former Troop 56 Scout from our community who has gone on to bigger and better things! Way To Go Matt!!



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 at 585 624 7796 and WBHS.org

CONTRIBUTOR DEADLINES

June 5 (covers Jul-Sept) Sept 5 (covers Oct-Dec) Dec (covers Jan-Mar 2024)

Making Home Sweet Home More Efficient

Ruth Cahn, West Bloomfield County Planning Board Representative

My husband Bill and I began exploring this topic about 20 years ago and thought you might enjoy some of the things we have learned. After much research, little by little over the years, we have added the following energy saving items to our home: weather stripping, Indow inserts (inside storm windows), insulation update, heat pumps, hot water heat pump, solar and geothermal. Let me share how we began exploring this topic. First, we looked at suggestions/programs from NYSERDA (New York State Energy, Research and Development Authority's) excellent website. They suggested an "energy audit" performed by a NYSERDA certified company. The audit can be free based on family income. The audit began with a "blower door test" that inserted a large fan into our front door with all the windows closed. It was easy to see and feel any leakage around doors and windows. Weather stripping updates were needed (cheap and do it yourself). The NYSERDA auditor gave us a list of recommendations on what to do first, and likely costs. We have 3 small West facing windows that really got hit hard by the wind. The solution there was an "Indow" (trade name), a window insert made from flexible material that is surrounded by flexible rubber stripping and fits firmly on the interior of the window (a bit expensive, but no drafts now). We then had our insulation updated, especially in the ceilings (again not inexpensive). It lowered our heating bills and added comfort. Now the fun stuff! Solar panels supply almost all the electricity we need. Patience is required as investment payback is about 6-8 years. A heat pump became our main source of heat (it pulls heat from the air even on the coldest days) and a heat pump hot water heater (this one looks like the Darlik from DR WHO). We added 5 geothermal wells (100 ft. into ground) and ran the heat pump from them. (Absolutely amazing air conditioning and heating)! Note: We kept our wonderful oil furnace, which still helps out in a below zero day. New high-tech thermostats really gave us control of when and where we were heating. Everything had significant financial support from NYSERDA and Federal programs. We had good luck with the NYSERDA-certified contractors helping us locate the funding support. The heat pump uses a lot of electricity. Our solar array usually covers our electrical need except February. As you can see, there is a lot to learn and consider in doing an almost complete energy retrofit to an existing home. The necessity of doing a little at a time makes the conversion possible. Please let me know if I can be helpful and please check the NYSERDA website for updates.

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