

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

The Newsletter of West Bloomfield NY

Summer 2023

**WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN SUPERVISOR**    **Todd Campbell**

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

Hello and welcome to summer! It was great to see everyone out and supporting the parades on Memorial Day—thank you again to our Veterans and everyone who has served. As I'm writing this we are dealing with the effects from the Canadian wildfires—please check both the Town and County websites for updates in cases like this for information, status, and to see if there any actions that you should take (also a great place to see if there are supplies available like masks etc.).

**Summer Recreation:** The summer rec programs are beginning to fill up; please check at the Town Hall or through the schools for information on signing up your children.

**Code enforcement:** I would like to extend a special thanks to Jim Kier who has worked with us to provide Code Enforcement assistance during our transition from working with the Village of Honeoye Falls to the Town of Richmond. We now have an agreement in place and will be sharing Scott and Kayleigh—please welcome them to West Bloomfield when you see them!

**The Town Board** is always looking for interested residents to serve on our Planning and Zoning Boards—we have room for alternates as well—so please let me know if you are interested or would like to discuss further. The Town Board will begin working on the 2024 budget in the next couple months. If you have anything you would like us to consider we need to hear from you.

You can reach me at [tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org) or (585)624-2461.

**Ontario County has been very busy this year**—I am serving as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, first time for a West Bloomfield Supervisor in over 100 years. The BOS has recently been discussing the situation with those seeking Asylum (through the City of New York) and where to house them. We also have been working with the office of County Clerk after the sudden passing of Clerk Hoose, and working on what the future of the County landfill will be. The current landfill contract expires in 2028 and there are many different scenarios to consider that have impacts on all of our residents.

I hope you have a great day—and thanks for reading!

## Highway Superintendent Jeff Ball

The Highway Department is excited to welcome summer 2023! We are full of optimism for a productive roadwork season. You may have already noticed the oil and stone that was completed on Factory Hollow, Sand, and Elton Roads. Soon the excess stone will be swept off and new lines will be painted.

Our major repair projects for this year are on Allens Hill North and Lefevre South. We will be cleaning ditches, replacing culvert pipes, and finally paving in mid-July. Our other warm weather jobs include mowing roadsides, parks, and the Pioneer Cemetery. We'll also be cleaning ditches, repairing and replacing aging culverts, and installing driveway culverts for new home builds. All of this keeps the highway crew very busy. We're grateful to **Extreme Tree and Landscape** for the stump-grinding at the Pioneer Cemetery. The company provided this service to the Town at no charge.

At the time of this writing, I am at the 76th Annual School for Highway Superintendents at Ithaca College, where I and hundreds of other superintendents are learning better ways to lead our departments.

As always, if you have questions feel free to call me at 585-624-2900 or email me at [highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org)



Recently acquired zero turn lawn equipment with a new trailer. The trailer provides the necessary driver safety to transport the mowers to several town locations.





## **West Bloomfield Fire Department**

**John MacKenzie, President**

**Website:** [www.westbloomfieldfiredept.org](http://www.westbloomfieldfiredept.org)

We at West Bloomfield Fire Department have been busy helping neighboring departments with wildland and brush fires. We are very happy that our town residents have refrained from burning and have obeyed the burn ban, which ran from March 16th through to May 14th. Now that summer is upon us, flowers are growing, gardens are planted, and everyone is enjoying our beautiful outdoors -- don't forget to check those Co and smoke detectors, test them monthly, and if needed change them or the batteries in them. Practice your family exit drills periodically (hopefully you never need them), but always stay prepared.

**Our department has some tables and chairs that we loan out to people who live in our town.** A reminder to everyone: If wanting to borrow such items, you must call John MacKenzie (585-739-3582) or email [president@westbloomfieldfiredept.org](mailto:president@westbloomfieldfiredept.org) and reserve the items. Since we have been losing tables and chairs in the past years, no items can leave the firehouse without being reserved and put in the reservation book. Myself or another firefighter will sign items out at a prescheduled pickup time and check them back in at another prescheduled return date. The policy is for everyone, firefighters and townspeople included, and every item must be accounted for. If we continue to lose items, the Fire Dept. will be forced to stop lending them out. This is a community service that we do for our townspeople at no charge, but we do accept donations when they are offered and thank you for them.

**West Bloomfield Fire Dept. has a Red Cross certified instructor in our membership and we are looking to possibly offer a CPR/Basic first aid class to residents of our town in the future.** The class would be limited to 12 people per class and we would try to schedule them on Saturday mornings or possibly on a week night also. There will be Adult CPR/AED, Adult CPR, Adult CPR/AED/Pediatric classes available, and the class costs would range from \$55 through \$95. If there is interest in these classes held at West Bloomfield most likely this coming fall, please drop an email to [president@westbloomfieldfiredept.org](mailto:president@westbloomfieldfiredept.org).

Thank you, please stay safe, enjoy your summer, and use sunscreen.

## Ionia Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. (IVFC)

Chief Lynn Parrish

**Website:** [www.ioniafireco.org](http://www.ioniafireco.org)

Summer weather has finally arrived. We made it through the Spring months with only a couple of very minor brush fires. Thank you to everyone in the community for observing the annual burn ban this year.

As we transition into the warmer weather, we are seeing an increase in the amount of traffic on our highways. Please be vigilant while traveling and remember to drive defensively. During these next few months, we always see an uptick in the number of motor vehicle accidents. Especially concerning is the addition of motorcycles on the road now. This is the time of year to enjoy the open road on a bike yet when involved in a crash, the results can be far more devastating. Please give our first responders some extra courtesy when approaching and traveling through an emergency scene.

Parade season is also upon us. Thanks to everyone who came out to watch our annual Memorial Day celebrations this year. It is a special time for all of us to pay our respects to all the men and women who have served our military and allowed us to have the freedoms we all enjoy today.



We have gained two new active members in Ionia since the last article. Kaeden Whitmore and Tyler Parrish have joined our ranks. They both continue a long family history in our fire company. Kaeden comes from the Washburn family and Tyler from the Parrish family. Kaeden's great grandfather and Tyler's grandfather were both original founding members of the IVFC. It's great to see these two families continuing to contribute to our history. Their grandfathers would be proud.

There are always opportunities for anyone in the community to join our local fire departments. The number of volunteers for all fire departments and ambulance corps is declining rapidly. We are all struggling with membership. The alternative to having volunteers gets very expensive for us as taxpayers. When there are not enough volunteers, career staff is the next step and none of us want to get to that.

We continue to train to keep our members sharp. Now that the weather allows us to get outside, we are training on all our equipment, including our extrication tools used for motor vehicle accidents. We are always looking for vehicles to use for training. If you have an old vehicle we could use or you would like to donate, contact Chief Lynn Parrish in Ionia or Chief Gary Lewis in West Bloomfield. We will even come and get it.



*Please welcome & congratulate the two newest members of the Jonia Volunteer Fire Department. Top center, Kaeden Whitmore and bottom left Tyler Parrish*



**Kaeden and Carter Whitmore with Uncle , Jeff Harloff**



**Tyler Parrish with his father, Chief Lynn Parrish**

## COMING UP AT THE SOCIETY ....

**Tuesday, August 1, 7 pm:** "Hidden Treasures," a slide show of West Bloomfield historical spots created by the late Sandra Bortle Schlenker, a driving force in the early days of our Society. We will also present the original narration using Sandy's script.

**Saturday, August 19, 1-4 pm:** Open House at the Society with extra features for kids.

**Tuesday, September 5, 7 pm:** Gather around the table as West Bloomfield resident "Doc" Hoskins educates us about bee-keeping.

**Late September (Date TBD):** Meet at the Observatory in Ionia for a special tour with Mark Minarich

**KIDS ....** Come visit and see what life was like for your grandparents, great grandparents, and even great great grandparents when they were growing up. You can also learn about the story of your town. Did you know that West Bloomfield once had a skunk farm? Or that your town was thought to be "cool" with bands, baseball teams, all kinds of dances and plays, and a milk shake shop? Maybe your ancestors went to school on the train or rode in an open sleigh. We invite you to step into their lives and explore the West Bloomfield of the past.

**For More Information** about Society activities, or to make an appointment with the Historian, see our Website [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org), or Facebook - West Bloomfield Historical Society, New York. Call 657-7060 with general questions.

## More WBHS from Mike Borgeest, Historian and VP of WBHS



This interesting sign is located on the north entry to our little hamlet of Ionia. A very heavy cast iron construction with an ornately fluted & tapered post. Clearly marked "N. Y. State Highway". And no need to adjust your page, it is clearly leaning badly toward the west. This type of early signage, I believe from the 1920's or 30's, is of course disappearing from our landscape. I plan to find time to get it straightened before it can fall to the ground.



# West Bloomfield Historical Society 31st Annual COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sat. July 8, 9 - 4 and  
Sun. July 9, 9 - 1  
at the Society, 8966 Rt. 5 & 20

Spaces available to set up and sell your own  
yard sale items, antiques & collectables.  
Reserve your space by calling 585-512-7124

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Quality Donations in Good Condition are Welcome  
and can be dropped off at the Society on  
Mon., Tues. & Wed. June 26, 27, & 28 from 2 to 7 PM  
also: Saturdays June 24 & July 1 from 9 AM to Noon  
*(Please, NO clothing, particle board furniture, car seats, nor TVs)*  
*Monetary donations are always gratefully accepted.*

Mailing address: P.O. Box 173, West Bloomfield, NY 14585

website: [wbhsny.org](http://wbhsny.org)



## **ASTRONOMY SECTION OF THE ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**



By Mark Minarich, Past President ASRAS

[www.RochesterAstronomy.org](http://www.RochesterAstronomy.org)

Marian & Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy  
8355 County Rte. 14, Ionia, NY

**We are Rochester's "Astronomy Club" with our dark sky observational center right here in Ionia.** We are dedicated to helping our members and the general public appreciate and enjoy the wonders of the universe, and to furthering the understanding of astronomy in the Greater Rochester area. Members enjoy all aspects of astronomy including: planetary, lunar and deep sky observing, astrophotography, education and public outreach, armchair astronomy, and more.

ASRAS is a diverse group that includes people of all levels of interest and experience. Members share a common love for astronomy and space sciences. Some are well-versed and experienced amateur astronomers. Others have little or no expertise but make up for that in enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Although most members have little or no formal training in astronomy, math, physics, or the space sciences, a few members are professional astronomers.

If you are interested in any aspect of amateur astronomy, why not join us? We can help you learn your way around the sky. We can help you choose the right telescope to buy. We'll help you learn the fascinating science behind the hobby. And, we'll help you have fun while doing all that.

### **This summer's upcoming events:**

**Public Star Party on Friday, June 16**, from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM. At the Farash Center in Ionia.

**Public Star Party on Friday, July 7**, from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM. Same location as above.

Bring your Astronomy curiosity and a jacket to keep warm.

Please park in the lower field in the designated area outlined by traffic cones.

For more opportunities to participate, visit our Website calendar

[www.RochesterAstronomy.org](http://www.RochesterAstronomy.org) .

Welcome to our Astronomy Section Dark Sky site!

## Scout Troop 56

Tim Schiefen, Committee Chair

Our Troop meetings and activities are now winding down for the summer. One of the last events we do each season is also one of our biggest fund raisers: car parking at the Mendon Fire Department's annual Carnival. If you have visited the Carnival over the past 15 years maybe you didn't recognize those young men directing you to park as our West Bloomfield Boy Scouts.

Years ago, our Troop was asked to provide additional help to our West Bloomfield firemen to direct traffic and park cars for the event. Over the next few years there were fewer firemen to perform the task and it fell on our Scouts to get the job done. What began as a simple task of parking one lot of cars turned into setting up and parking all cars in both of the sizable parking areas for the 3-day event.

Over the next several years our Scouts and leaders have studied the task and implemented our ideas to effectively set up and engineer methods to make the job manageable and safe for the patrons as well as for the Scouts, leaders, and parent helpers. This year we are proud to have implemented a new traffic pattern which streamlined the process and made it safer for pedestrian traffic in our parking lots and laneways.

The weather this year was beautiful for all 3 days of the Carnival, resulting in record crowds on Friday and Saturday. We filled every space. We were joined by Honeoye Falls Troop 410, which is an all-girls' Troop. Several Scouts and parents turned out to help. The extra help made it much more manageable than in previous years, and we look forward to working together in the future with Troop 410.

As of the writing of this article, I have just finished working with Troop 56 to move the contents of Welch Hall to our new shipping container located at the West Bloomfield Fire House. After years behind the Town Highway Department, we are now properly located on site with our Chartered organization.

This year our Scouts were proud to perform the flag ceremonies at the Memorial Day Parades in Ionia and West Bloomfield. You may have noticed the Scouts raising the flag to full staff then lowering it to half staff. Without the "21-gun salute" it is the time-honored method of showing respect to those fallen members of the military. THANK YOU to all our neighbors who came out that day to join us in the continued tradition.



## Please take time to congratulate our Troup Leader 56 Scout Leader Tim Schiefen

Scout Committee Chair Tim Schiefen has been recognized for his service to our youth and the wider community. Tim was nominated for Scouting's "**Silver Beaver Award**" a year ago. After extensive vetting, he recently received this special tribute from the national Boy Scouts of America and the regional Seneca Waterways Council. The award honors adult leaders of exceptional character who have impacted the lives of youth, made outstanding contributions to Scouting in the region, and provided extraordinary service to their communities. **Congratulations Tim!**



### IONIA WOMEN'S CLUB

Mary Twardokus

The 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 in members' homes. This group began many decades ago as a Home Bureau Cooperative Extension group. The purpose of the club has remained the same – to share friendships, homemaking skills, cooking, and 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 to donate items such as school supplies, pet supplies, and Christmas baskets to various local not-for-profits.

This summer we will have a couple of "Patio Parties" at members' homes. In September we will resume our regular meetings with a Pot-Luck Appetizers & Desserts Dinner and program planning session. For information on joining in on the gatherings, call Mary Twardokus 657-7722.



# IONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mary Twardokus

“Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.” At the Ionia United Methodist Church, 2120 Elton Road in Ionia, all are welcome to our services, fellowship times, and events! Our Sunday Worship is held at 9:30 am. A “Coffee/ Fellowship Time” is held after the service. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, we hold Birthday Sunday, celebrating those 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. Our pastor, Rev. Dr. Robin Blair, is now holding an online Bible Study held on Monday evenings, 7-8 pm. She will continue through July & follow the lectionary, taking August off, and resuming in the fall. It is a “drop in” bible study & you may join in on any week. Contact Pastor Robin for the online link at 315-729-4485 or at [revrobinblair@gmail.com](mailto:revrobinblair@gmail.com)

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



**26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ionia Fall Festival on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> all day long**, celebrating our agricultural heritage, to be held on the Ionia United Methodist Church grounds, 2120 Elton Rd., just off Rt 64 & north of Rtes. 5 & 20. Our Tractor Parade, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, will have tractors from all over western NY & is one of the largest in western NY! The parade begins at 1 pm, but you can look at the tractor & implement displays behind the church all day long. Food available: Coffee & Donuts 7:30-9:30 am; Chicken BBQ 11:30 am til sold out; and the Chow Hut serves hot dogs, burgers and more 10 am -4:30 pm. All day long are the Cake & Dessert Wheel; Coin Toss; Door Prizes, Hayrides to the Wolk Observatory; Games; Historical & other Displays & Demonstrations; Scout demonstrations; & much, much more. This summer, more information can be found on our website: [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org) For tractor parade information, contact John Bennett (585-657-6245). For vendor booth information, contact Marna Evans (585-624-4993). Come for a fun fall day in the country!



Each Sunday morning, at 8:30 am, Rev. Dr. Robin Blair hosts the “Finger Lakes Journal” radio show, on WYLF, AM 850. It is about 20 minutes in length when Rev. Blair interviews a guest about something that is happening in our beautiful Finger Lakes area that could be of interest to the folks like us who live here! From concert performers to museum curators and Fire Chiefs, it is just interesting to hear from our neighbors who aim to be “good neighbors” to us all. You can listen in on the radio, AM 850, or from your computer: [www.wylf.com](http://www.wylf.com) for “listen live” at 8:30 on Sunday mornings.



You may drop off your redeemable pop cans & bottles into the crate or trash cans behind the church. 100% of the redemption money goes toward our church’s missions! Those pop cans and bottles do add up thanks to the generous efforts of our whole community. So far this year we have collected 8,500 more cans & bottles, which is an amazing number of cans and bottles, allowing us to make more donations to various charities in our local community and area, the nation, and the world! When you drop off pop cans and bottles, please empty and rinse cans and bottles before donating and then place them in plastic bags! Thank you!

**The Allens Hill Free Library has lots of plans for summer reading!** The summer theme is “All Together Now” and we will be having lots of summer camp style fun. Be on the lookout for new Take & Make kits with boondoggle, friendship bracelets, bead projects, and treasure box kits. Our current Storywalk® book is “Library Mouse” by Daniel Kirk and we will feature new books to go with our theme this summer. Walk around our outdoor space and read some great stories! Don’t forget to check out our beautiful gardens and mural by former West Bloomfield resident John Magnus Champlin. Magnus Apollo and his trusty assistant recently added new details to the beautiful artwork.

**We will also host our 2nd Annual Tiny Art Show**, and featured programs include an animal presentation, slime making workshop, and a tie-dye event. There will be pajama story hours and family game nights for lots of summer fun! Our Makerspace for kids and adult coloring materials are always available for patrons. An added bonus: Our building is naturally cool and a great place to spend hot summer days!

**The library will be having bake and book sale fundraisers this summer.**

Stop and see us at the West Bloomfield Historical Society Community Yard Sale on July 8th & 9th! We will have lots of great summer reads and baked goods for sale to support library programs. We are currently taking donations of used books and DVDs in good condition. Items can be dropped off at the library during open hours. (Please note that we cannot take encyclopedias, textbooks, or items in poor condition as they are costly for us to dispose of.)



The Allens Hill Free Library is just 6 miles south of the West Bloomfield Town Hall on County Road 40. We have DVDs, Blue-Rays, CDs, video and board games, and books of course! We also have internet access, computers for patron use, and printing services. We currently have fishing kits available to borrow with a NYS Freshwater Fishing Guide and two fishing poles.

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

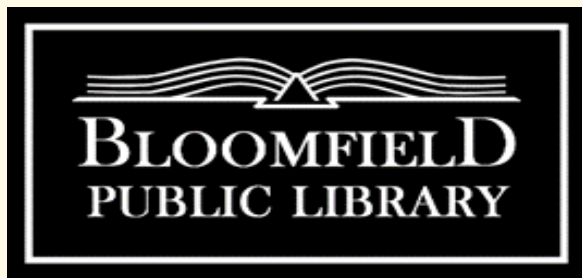
**Hours:** Tuesday 3:00-6:00. Wednesday, 3:00-6:00, Friday 3:00-8:00, Saturday 1:00-4:00

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

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

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



**9 CHURCH STREET**

**BLOOMFIELD NY 14469**

**585 657 6264**

**[WWW.bloomfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://WWW.bloomfieldpubliclibrary.org)**

The **Bloomfield Public Library** is gearing up for summer! Join us for summer reading programs for all ages. We have a variety of programs that can be found on our website. Some highlights include:

**June:**

Saturday Summer Storytime at Veterans' Park: June 10, 10:30 a.m.\* (Children)

Summer Reading Kickoff: June 27 Wildlife Rockstars will be bringing animals at 3 p.m. Stick around at 4 p.m. as we begin summer reading registration and have an ice cream party. (All ages)

**July:**

Book Club: July 3, 2:30 p.m. (Adults)

Saturday Summer Storytime at Veterans' Park: July 8, 10:30 a.m.\* (Children)

Herbalism Workshop: July 12, 3 p.m. at Shimmering Light Farm 6143 Hick Road, Naples\* (Teens)

Mock Trial: July 19, 5:30 p.m. at Ontario County Youth Court at Canandaigua Town Court at 5440 NY-5, Canandaigua\* (Teens)

Beekeeping Workshop: July 26, 1:30 p.m. at Fruition Seeds 7921 Hickory Bottom Road, Naples (Teens)

Seaside Spa: July 26, 5 p.m. Make your own spa materials like soap and candles.\* (All ages)

Butterfly Wing Jewelry, July 26, 7 p.m. Make jewelry using real butterfly wings. \*(Adults)

**August:**

Book Club: August 7, 2:30 p.m. (Adults)

Fire Department Visit with truck: August 9, 2 p.m. (Children)

Herbalism Workshop: August 9, 3 p.m. at Shimmering Light Farm 6143 Hick Road, Naples\* (Teens)

Foraging Nature Walk and Wildcrafting @ Cummings Nature Center: August 19, 1 p.m. 6472 Gulick Road, Naples\* (Teens)

End of Summer Celebration with Seneca ZooMobile animals: August 30, 5:30 p.m. Stay afterwards for a pizza party at 6:30 p.m. (All ages)

**Coming soon: New hours!** Starting June 26 we will be expanding our hours for the summer! We will be open 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Fridays, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

**New service: Museum passes!** We are excited to offer museum passes for free to borrow. We have 1 Empire Pass, 1 Genesee Country Village & Museum Pass, and 2 Rochester Museum and Science Center passes! All passes circulate for 1 week with no renewals. Late fines are \$1 a day. Passes must be picked up and returned to the Bloomfield Library only and cannot be reserved in advance.

**Outdoor Projects:** Starting this summer we will be creating a sensory garden, Storywalk, and Gazebo in our side yard. We hope patrons will be able to enjoy our outdoor areas very soon!

**\*= Registration required.** Please visit our website or call to register in advance.

The mission of the Bloomfield Public Library is to educate and enrich the community by providing resources and opportunities for gathering, learning, connecting, innovating, and accessing information.



## West Bloomfield Congregational Church

9035 Rts 5 & 20, West Bloomfield, 585-624-1313, wbccucc.org, wbccoffice@rochester.rr.com

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".

Pastor Keyes will be on sabbatical from June 5<sup>th</sup>- September 5<sup>th</sup>. He will not be receiving any calls, texts, or emails, and will be unavailable for counsel, funerals, or any other pastoral duties. He also will be absent from social media. Please call the church to be put in touch with someone if you need counsel during this time. Look around you. You are surrounded by caring, loving, competent Christians. Stick together, rely on each other, and be reliable to each other as you always have, and know YOU ARE LOVED.

**Junk In the Trunk Sale:** Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-4 pm. Rent a spot in the church parking lot to sell your antiques, garage sale, or flea market items. Maybe you have some things you would like to sell, but for one reason or another, you cannot have a garage sale at your home – maybe you don't have enough for a full sale -- maybe you don't know how to advertise your sale, or your street does not get a lot of traffic. Maybe you like the camaraderie of a group sale. Craft vendors and direct sales are welcome. We'll have music and food available for purchase. Contact Sarah Williams for a vendor agreement.



**The H.O.P.E. (Helping other people eat) Food Pantry:** 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.

### Please also check out our social media presence

Instagram page @westbloomfieldcongregational

Facebook, West Bloomfield UCC

for information about the happenings at WBUCC.

By Pastor Corey Keyes, and Sarah Williams, Program Director

# Millers Corners Cemetery

Wayne Parrish

The 2023 annual meeting of the cemetery was held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President – Lynn Parrish, Vice President – Randy O’Brien, Secretary – Marna Evans, Treasurer – Wayne Parrish, Superintendent. – Larry Evans. Gary Evans and John Bennett were re-elected to three-year terms as Trustees. The six Trustees are: John Bennett, Gary Evans, Richard Frye, Sue Garling, Joanne O’Brien, and Lisa Parrish.

The lawn mowing contract for the year was awarded to William Boldt.

Genesee Valley Cemetery Service increased their interment prices significantly after last year’s meeting. As such our prices were adjusted after the meeting as follows: plots to \$800, casket burial to \$900, and a cremation burial to \$550. In addition, there is now a \$300 surcharge for weekend or holiday interments for casket burials. These changes were approved by the NYS Division of Cemeteries.

**REMINDER:** 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.

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

**LASTLY:** Over time a granite headstone will build up debris on it to the point that the inscription will become difficult to read. There are three ways to clean a headstone. First, hire a professional headstone cleaner to clean it. Second, buy a bottle of headstone cleaner and do it yourself according to the instructions on the bottle. Third, do it yourself with mild household cleaner such as Dawn detergent, water, and a brush with stiff plastic bristles. Do not use a wire brush as it will scratch the headstone. Also, do not use household cleaners such as bleach as they will deteriorate the granite over time. Start out by moistening the stone with water, then apply a small amount of Dawn. Next briskly scrub the stone with the brush. Finish off the process by rinsing the stone with water. Most likely, you will have to repeat this process a couple of times. Below are two pictures of a headstone: one before cleaning and one after cleaning using Dawn and water.



## COMMUNITY FOCUS

**Newsletter of the Township of West  
Bloomfield NY**

**9097 Daylight Drive**

**West Bloomfield NY 14585**

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# ECRWSS Postal Customer

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

**Contact Us @ 585 624 7796 and WBHSNY.ORG**

**Contributor Deadlines Sept 5 / Dec 5**

## **NORTH BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Doreen Haller**

After a very mild winter, it seemed we roared right into summer this year. It made for a wonderful morning for our annual Memorial Day parade. After the parade, everyone returned to the Chapel for a wonderful brunch provided by our community residents. Someone commented that there were a lot of World War II veterans buried in our cemetery and wondered how many there were. I went back to our records and counted 48 veterans in World War II plus 3 more involved in both World War II and the Korean War. That makes a total of 51 associated with World War II. Our cemetery goes back to the French and Indian War with Josiah Gates as the first veteran to be buried here. I was surprised by the next largest number of veterans. A total of 26 residents fought in the Civil War. North Bloomfield was quite a bustling town at the time. If you missed our parade this year, we look forward to seeing you next year!

**We are looking at painting the building this summer and are looking for volunteers to join us.** We are organizing scrape and paint parties. If you're willing to put in a couple of hours, please join us. You'll need to bring a scraper for scraping and a paint brush for the painting. We'll provide the rest of the equipment. Please contact Doreen Haller at 585-732-7545 or email [doreen@treeskiers.com](mailto:doreen@treeskiers.com) for more information. Our next meetings will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the North Bloomfield Chapel at 1924 State Route 65.