



## *The newsletter of the Town of West Bloomfield*

### **Town Supervisor's Update**

**Todd D. Campbell**

Hello, and welcome to Spring! This winter has certainly been an interesting one, with numerous records being set, and looks like more to come as I'm writing this. The unusually warm weather has us looking at getting a jump on Spring. Please stop in at the Town Hall and see the Town Clerk, Brenda, if you need a permit for Boughton Park or have questions about using the fields or pavilion in Michael Prouty Park.

#### **The Town is hoping to start 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 to infrastructure, zoning, recreation, housing, 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 of several American Rescue Plan (ARPA) projects—paving of the Town Hall parking lot and an update of the playground in Prouty Park. I believe that both projects will provide some long-term benefits to our residents (Town Hall would then be available for use as a polling site, and the playground will provide a safer alternative for families using the park).

**Please take some time to review the Town's website, <https://townofwestbloomfield.org>.** We are always updating it with information about activities in our area in the calendar section, and we 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 me an e-mail if you have interest in serving on a committee or one of our boards.

I can be reached at 624-2461, or via e-mail at [tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org).



**Greetings - From the Town Clerk's Office**

***Brenda Thompson***

**NYS DEC Update** - As of August 1, 2024, DEC is changing from printing sporting licenses and all items sold through DECALS on special license stock (Valeron), to printing on plain paper. This change will allow DEC to become more cost effective, keep up with emerging technologies, and help reduce our carbon footprint. Customers will still be able to purchase their licenses in-person at an issuing agent, online, or over the phone. When purchasing a license in-person, the customer will have the option of having their license, tags, and other items emailed to them rather than printing them at the point of sale. This change is effective for the 2024-25 license year and will begin with sales starting August 1, 2024. Additionally, lifetime license holders should expect to receive their 2024-25 licenses and tags on plain paper by September 1, 2024. The change to plain paper does not apply to the spring 2024 turkey season.

**Michael Prouty Park**

*The park is open and ready for your events!*

*Please call or email the Town Clerk's Office to reserve the park/pavilion.*

*585-624-2914 – [townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:townclerk@townofwestbloomfield.org)*

*Rental Agreement Forms are available on our website:*

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

**Save the Date**

**Total Eclipse of the Sun – Monday, April 8, 2024**

The total solar eclipse is a once-in-a-lifetime event that will be visible to residents & visitors in Ontario County for approximately 2 minutes and 52 seconds. Information and updates on the event will be available on our website, as well as

[www.onchamber.com/total-solar-eclipse/](http://www.onchamber.com/total-solar-eclipse/)

## Highway Superintendent

## Jeff Ball

The winter of 2023-2024 has been one of the mildest in memory. Despite the low snow totals the highway crew stays busy including hauling materials, building repairs and equipment maintenance. Less snow means savings on salt, fuel, overtime and vehicle wear and tear. Hopefully with these savings we will have more money to use for road repairs this summer.

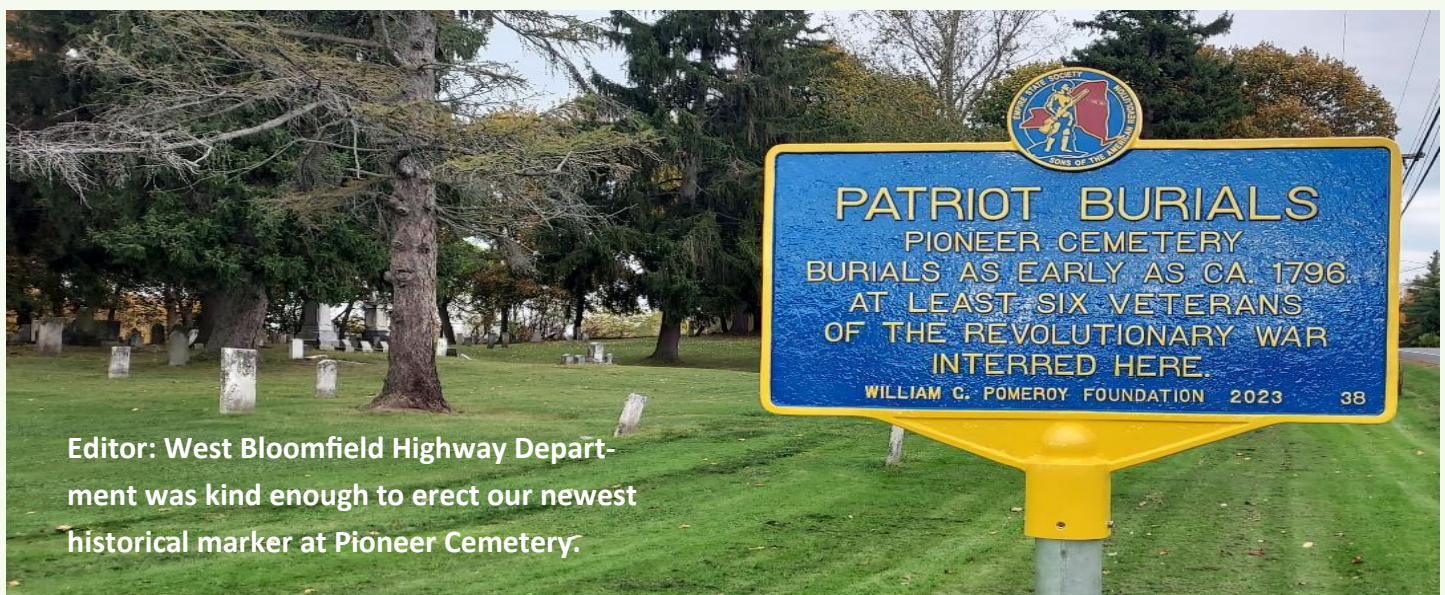
On March 5 and 6 I traveled to Albany with hundreds of other highway superintendents from all over the state to attend our 2024 Local Roads Are Essential Advocacy Day. We visited the offices of Senator Pam Helming and Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes and shared our concern that maintenance of local roads and bridges should be a top priority in the State budget. All highway departments receive aid from NYS to help build and repair roads and bridges and that program is called CHIPS. (Editor's note: CHIPS stands for "CONSOLIDATED Local Street and HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM") According to the Federal Highway Administration construction costs have escalated 58.6 % over the last 30 months. Without an increase in our local funding local governments will be forced to delay or defer critical projects. Hopefully the budget will include that increase!

The month of April will see snow fence coming down, roads being swept and winter plow damage being repaired along the roadsides. We'll also be inspecting the roads to see where best to invest our road repair monies. In May We'll be doing our first round of oil and stone which will be on Lefevre Road South and Sand Road. During the summer we'll be paving Strong Road as well as Baker Road from Elton to Cox Road. Next year we will finish Baker Road from Cox Road to Co. Rd. 35.

If you do have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at

[highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org) or the office phone at 585 624 2900.

**When you see us out on the roads, please slow down, be patient and give us a friendly wave. We're out there to make the roads better. Please see the back page of this edition of focus for more information. And thank you!**



Editor: West Bloomfield Highway Department was kind enough to erect our newest historical marker at Pioneer Cemetery.

# WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Suzanne Washburn

**The WBHS season opens Tuesday, April 16, 7 pm, with a public program on "Old News."** Come by the Society, 8966 Rt. 5 & 20, as Bill Davis shares some fascinating stories from West Bloomfield news articles of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. We are accessible & open to all at no charge.

Find program updates at our website (wbhsny.org) or on Facebook (West Bloomfield Historical Society New York). Coming up at WBHS:

**Tues., May 7, 7 pm:** Public program – "About Asparagus" Learn about this crop that was once a West Bloomfield claim to fame and the stories behind it.

**Sun., May 19, 1-4 pm:** Open hours & display of early coverlets found in our storage area!

**Mon., May 27, 9 -11 am:** Memorial Day open hours. Stop by between parades.

**Tues., June 4, 6:30 pm:** Members' Picnic at the Society



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Community Yard Sale – Saturday, July 13 (9 – 4) and

Sunday, July 14 (9 - 2)

**Donation Days:** Monday, June 24 – Tuesday, July 9. Find details in July 2024 Focus.

We have limited space now for a few special items. Call Scott at 585-755-5464 to discuss.

**Volunteer:** A great way to meet your neighbors. Call Sue at 585-657-7060 for more information.

**Have Your Own Yard Sale on our Lawn:** Rent a large space (\$25 non-member fee) for one day or all weekend. These spots go fast – to learn more email Laura at [lauraadpearce@gmail.com](mailto:lauraadpearce@gmail.com).

**Shop and Eat:** Bargains galore with Saturday breakfast & lunch on the grounds.

**2024 New Member Drive:** All are welcome, plus high school seniors and new residents get one year free! Did you move to West Bloomfield in 2023 or later? Are you a graduating senior or will you be one in September? Join us this year at no charge! WBHS also has great deals on memberships for all residents. In this busy world, we try to make few demands on our members. Volunteer once, occasionally, on a regular basis, or just be a supporter of local history. Fill out the form below or print one at our website (wbhsny.org) and mail it with your fee to WBHS Membership, Box 173, West Bloomfield NY 14585. Questions? Call Mary at 585-657-7722.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Category: Individual Adult \$12 \_\_\_\_ Family \$15 \_\_\_\_ Individual Senior (age 60+) \$10 \_\_\_\_

Business \$25 \_\_\_\_ Single Lifetime \$100 \_\_\_\_ Senior lifetime for Couples (age 70+) \$150 \_\_\_\_

New Resident-Free for 2024 \_\_\_\_ High School Senior-Free for 2024 \_\_\_\_

Good news! The cemetery has found new leadership so will not be abandoned to the Town at this time. Thank you to Corey Keyes and Andrea Stein for your years of service as President and Treasurer, and also thank you to past and current Trustees. Tom Weigert will be the President/ Superintendent and Ed Price will be the Treasurer. Ed has also agreed to learn the responsibilities involved in stepping in if Tom is away. Both have had these duties with the North Bloomfield cemetery for several years.

The first concern that was immediately addressed were the dead branches and trees that posed a danger to anyone in the Cemetery and created potential damage to headstones. Thank you to Extreme Tree and Landscape for the quick and thorough job with complete cleanup.

Have you ever wondered what a Cemetery caretaker does exactly? Hopefully this article generates interest as we are also looking for a Vice President and a Secretary. The secretary would take notes at 2-3 meetings per year.

Mark your calendar: The first Trustees meeting will be April 8th at 6:00pm at the West Bloomfield Congregational Church to meet with Tom Weigert and Ed Price and discuss any questions or concerns. Tom can be reached at 585-624-1823.



## **North Bloomfield Community Association**

**Doreen Haller**

The North Bloomfield Community Association will be having workdays on the building (1924 State Route 65) coming up in April and May. We are continuing our efforts to preserve the building for future generations. Please keep an eye out in the *Sentinel* for our workday schedule. If you are interested in helping, please contact Doreen Haller at [doreen@treeskiers.com](mailto:doreen@treeskiers.com).

We are looking forward to our annual Memorial Day parade. The parade starts at the corners of Route 65 and Quaker Meeting House Rd at 8:30 AM sharp. All First Responders, Military personnel, and Scouts are encouraged to join us. After a short service in the North Bloomfield Cemetery, please join us for brunch in the Community Association building. Please bring a dish to share. Coffee and juice provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

## North Bloomfield Cemetery Association, Inc.

### Deborah V Jahn, NBCA Secretary

1941 NY Route 65, Honeoye Falls, N.Y. 14472

Cemetery Superintendent 585-624-1823

Plots for sale, \$650

Some upcoming dates to remember:

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** all seasonal decorations MUST be removed from the graves for cemetery lawn maintenance to begin. There is no refuse collection, so please take your own discards with you.

**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony begins @ 8:30 am sharp at the corner of Rt. 65 and Quaker Meeting House Rd just south of the village of Honeoye Falls.

The names of all veterans in our cemetery are read beginning with the French & Indian War

Bring a dish to pass for brunch or just come to the North Bloomfield Chapel following the service in the cemetery.

**Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** the North Bloomfield Cemetery Annual Meeting begins at 6:00 pm in the North Bloomfield Chapel. Come learn about the state of the cemetery and future plans, meet the cemetery superintendent and trustees. Find out about purchasing a plot or information about burial. Find further information and photos at our website [www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com](http://www.northbloomfieldcemetery.com) or look up "North Bloomfield Cemetery" on Google Maps.

Please remember that this is your community cemetery and is completely operated by volunteers and your donations. Death notices can be put in the paper with contributions directed to:

North Bloomfield Cemetery Assoc., 1941 State Route 65, Honeoye Falls, N.Y. 14472



## West Bloomfield Congregational Church

Pastor Corey Keyes & Program Director Sarah Williams

9035 Routes. 5 & 20, West Bloomfield - 585-624-1313 - [wbccucc.org](http://wbccucc.org) - [wbc-office@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wbc-office@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."

We are thrilled to announce a momentous occasion in the history of West Bloomfield Congregational Church – our **225th Anniversary Celebration** in 2024! Over two centuries of unwavering faith, community, and service have brought us to this remarkable milestone, and we want to celebrate it with all of you. We have many exciting plans throughout 2024 to celebrate our **quasiquicentennial**.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration.** Vendors and workshops focusing on sustainability, climate change, energy efficiency, etc.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>: Father's Day Chicken BBQ**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>: Organ Concert – Come hear our beautiful 1875 Davis Organ**

**August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>: Quasiquicentennial Celebration! Community party on the lawn on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 with food, music, games, etc. Celebratory service on Sunday at 10 am.**

**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 "grocery store" style food giveaway four times per year. 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 for information about the happenings at WBUCC. Instagram page [@westbloomfieldcongregational](https://www.instagram.com/westbloomfieldcongregational) Facebook, West Bloomfield UCC



We had good turnouts for both the January & February Pancake Breakfasts, and our Troop would like to thank all the patrons who have helped our fundraising efforts.

**This year our Scouts plan a road trip with several places to experience.** The itinerary includes Asheville, North Carolina, where they will tour the Biltmore House. Then it's off to Dollywood and Music City – Nashville, Tennessee, where they plan to visit Kid Rock's Hall of Fame, Top Golf, and search for the King at Graceland. Next, they will travel to Kentucky for Mammoth Cave and a Bowling Green railroad museum. In Ohio, they hope to visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and then travel through scenic West Virginia. They have arranged to camp along the way at a number of Scout camps.

**Our Troop takes a trip every Spring and we task the Scouts with contacting the places of interest and camping sites.** Often, we've been accommodated at BSA camps or National Parks, which roll out the red carpet for the Scouts. Our leaders guide and suggest ways to fulfill the desires of the adventure. Year after year the travelers return with stories of their journey. Sometimes things don't go as planned, but they always have an enjoyable time.



**Many thanks to the Ionia Volunteer Fire Co., where the Scouts were guests for the January equipment night.** Our Scouts learned much about what fire service volunteers do and how they do it.

This winter we also participated in the Yeti Games at Camp Cutler in Naples. The weather was actually pretty good. Some years we push a sled around on dirt and grass – we even had some snow this time.

**Keep an eye out for the Troop parking cars at the Mendon Firemen's Carnival, always the weekend after Memorial Day.** The carnival parking is our biggest fund generator. Considerable planning and set up is required and it's all done by young people ages 12 to 18! Last year Troop 410 from Honeoye Falls, (an all-girl troop) joined us, as well as Mendon's Troop 105 (which is the troop I was in as a Scout).

**In almost every article I have penned for Community Focus I've tried to share how fortunate our community is to have a great group of young people like the Scouts in our unit.** Please remember, if parents and youth do not consider what a wonderful program and community we have here in the Town of West Bloomfield it will no longer exist. Help make your children's future memories by taking some time to have some adventures right here, where you've chosen to be! Look back through your own memories. Maybe like me, you can think of someone who took time for you and helped make those special times that you cherish. The reason I do what I do? Someone once did it for me. (Thank you. You made a big difference in my life.) Maybe in the future one of the Scouts I have interacted with over the last 20 years will be writing an article like this one.

**Come to one of our meetings, Tuesday nights, 7 pm, at West Bloomfield Fire Dept. All are welcome!**

## HOW DID A LITTLE TOWN LIKE WEST BLOOMFIELD END UP WITH TWO FIRE COMPANIES?"

Today the 100% volunteer West Bloomfield and Ionia departments work as cooperative partners. They answer all calls together, share manpower and equipment, and often conduct joint training. North Bloomfield is protected under a contract with Honeoye Falls.

The West Bloomfield and Ionia departments did operate separately in the days when water supplies in some areas were very limited, and communication was difficult. There were no County fire dispatchers, and a call between Ionia and West Bloomfield was not only long distance, but also put through more than one phone company! Here is a summary of how the departments evolved:

**The Town's first "fire department" was on Rt. 65 in the late 1800s**, comprised of any available manpower and an iron bell with pull cord. A horse-drawn hand pumper was added in 1884 and in 1886 a North Bloomfield department was incorporated (later disbanded).

**The West Bloomfield department was incorporated in 1951** after town citizens saw a need to better protect residents' lives and property and secure more favorable insurance rates for property owners.

**Ionia's fire company was created in 1953**, after a fire left a family homeless due to lack of water. Residents met on the church steps, formed a "protective organization," and raised funds for two large farm wagons with water tanks mounted on top, to be pulled by any available truck for a quick response.

**(See full histories in the Ionia and West Bloomfield Fire Department articles. In these stories, you'll be amazed at the tremendous volunteer spirit and community effort that shaped these organizations!)**

**Our volunteer fire companies respond to many kinds of calls.** They not only fight fires but also assist ambulance crews, come to your home when the CO detector goes off, direct traffic at accidents, and are there when trees and wires are down, or flooding occurs. They provide "mutual aid" to the departments in our neighboring towns. And, like their founders, they continue to work at fund raising events. Both departments are grateful for the donations to their Annual Fund drives that help make this work possible.

**As dedicated volunteers retire (some in their 80s), there is a real need to replace them.** Volunteers can serve as fire fighters or fill other needs in the department. The need for younger volunteers and/or folks who are available during the day is critical. To learn more, stop at either station (Ionia on Co. Rd. 14 or West Bloomfield on Co. Rd. 37) on a Monday evening and speak to any member.



A significant structure fire a couple years ago battled jointly by West Bloomfield and Ionia Volunteer Fire Department crews.



West Bloomfield Fire Department was incorporated in 1951 and accomplished much in the years that followed: adding volunteers and training, purchasing equipment, establishing a private line phone hook-up, forming a Ladies Auxiliary, moving from a Town Hall shed to build its own firehouse, and raising funds for most of these activities. With the formation of Ionia Fire Company, a “First Alarm agreement” determined boundaries for the two departments. Today, with the shortage of new volunteers to join either group, the agreement has been set aside and both groups get alarmed for all calls in the Town of West Bloomfield.

**A few notes from the [History of the West Bloomfield Volunteer Fire Department by the late Afton Kilmer](#) (covering 1952 – 1976):**

“...1952 saw the department embark on the first of many clambakes .... the bean crop, too, proved a financial success .... A marching unit was formed in either ’52 or ’53 .... Our first carnival was held during the summer of 1953, on ground along Routes 5 and 20, upon which is now situated the Bloomdale Mobile Home Park.”

“In 1957 the department and community lost “a great man and a great chief, our beloved Ellis Shetler.... During the later ’50s, the need for a larger and more adequately equipped fire house became apparent .... It was agreed that this site should be farther east and on higher ground than the then carnival grounds so that ... the heavily loaded equipment would not have to start its journeys with an up-hill climb.” A lot on “Dark Hollow Road” was purchased in 1957 with plans for a new firehouse to include kitchen, running water, rest rooms, and meeting facilities for members. “The main work was done by Sleight Brothers ... but much of the work, including the painting, plumbing, and electrical work was done by the members....” In 1958 another parcel of land bordering the lot was added. Obtaining a clear title was difficult, but Attorney Basil Moore provided all his services at no charge.

“In 1966 a “new tanker of 1400 gallons capacity was built for us .... (2001 Note: *This truck is still in active service*) .... A ‘Base Station’ radio was purchased in 1967. Monitors were “purchased and installed in most of the ‘key’ firemen’s homes.”

By 1968 “the department had grown, now had four pieces of equipment [and] more space was sorely needed .... During 1968 payment for the tanker was completed in full. Plans for an addition to the building, and for a new pumper were discussed at length.” In 1971 the Town Board agreed to have a water line run into the fire house and in 1973 the new Sanford pumper arrived.

“Activities during 1974 were very progressive .... the Marching Unit was in fine shape, won a number of trophies, and again paraded, with fine results, at Fort Erie, as did our splendid Auxiliary, which is a credit to the department. Both the carnival and fund drive were huge successes, as were attendance at fire drills and schools.” By 1975 the department was sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop, members poured a new concrete apron at the firehouse, and the department hosted meetings of the County Firemen and County Fire Police.

**At the end of this “history to 1976” author Kilmer wrote “...I feel that our outfit was never in better shape; never in better hands; never composed of better or more efficient and enthusiastic members....”**

**[Today, recruiting fire service volunteers is not a local problem, but a state and worldwide problem.](#)** The biggest concern is with small organizations losing their volunteer status and becoming paid professional groups, which would cause residents’ fire tax to climb drastically. “According to an economic impact study released Monday [3/20/2023] by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) these dedicated volunteers help New York taxpayers save \$4.7 billion annually through their services.” – John MacKenzie

**The Ionia Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., originated from community support, spirit, pride and *volunteerism*.**

The fire company is the result of a group of local residents meeting on the steps of the Ionia Methodist Church to discuss a better and more efficient way to fight fires, hours after a fire across the road from the church.

On July 12, 1953, a shed fire occurred at Timothy O'Brien's house across from the Methodist Church in Ionia. The fire originated within a shed attached to the house. The church bell summoned volunteer community people to a fire. The community people, with no training, relied on experience of other local fires and logic. This group of volunteers ran hose from the large cistern at the "Old Miller Barn" to the fire site. The shed fire was brought under control however, fire spread to the house. The water supply was exhausted, and the house was significantly damaged. Four fire departments also responded to assist in extinguishing the fire. Community people took in the family's children until permanent residence was obtained for the entire family.

That evening, a group of men met on the steps of the Methodist Church to discuss a better water supply and more efficient ways to fight fires. That evening they agreed to meet on July 21, 1953. At this meeting of local men, it was decided to form the "Ionia Fire Protection Organization." The Officers for the new organization were: Fredrick Howes Jr., President; William Washburn Sr., Vice President; and Harry Millsbaugh, Secretary / Treasurer. Original Charter Members were: Raymond Appleton, Danny Broadwell, Keith Bennett, Ronald Bennett, Walter Bennett, Warren J. Butler, Alfred Catalano, Chris Catalano, Howard Chapple, John Cochran, Howard Conklin, Carl Davis, Gordon Flieger, Fred E. Howes, Fred J. Howes, George Howes, Luther Kuehl, Harry Millsbaugh, Donald F. O'Brien, Donald Parrish, Jack Rayburn, and William Washburn.

On September 7, 1953, a meeting was held to discuss incorporation details. On November 18, 1954, the incorporation documents were signed by Supreme Court Justice Arthur E. Blauvelt and new name is "Ionia Volunteer Company, Inc."

A pledge to the community was held and raised over \$900 in donations and pledges for the new fire company. Land was deeded by Fred Howes, Sr., to build a new 30' by 50' fire house for \$1. The construction of the new fire station began in 1954 at an estimated cost of \$1,400. Construction of the new station was completed by volunteers in November of that year.

**The community has always supported the fire department in many fundraising events over the years.** The events included: dances, cookie sales, card parties, ham raffles, suppers/dinners, chicken barbeques, Mother's Day Ham Dinners, and annual fireman's carnivals. On August 4, 1954, the fire company members agreed to hold the first carnival on August 27<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. The carnivals were very successful in raising funds throughout the years. The annual firemen's carnival ended in 1985 due to the ever-increasing government requirements and the volunteer manpower required to successfully run a carnival.

The funds raised by the various events over the years afforded the expansions of the fire station to include: a larger kitchen at the rear of the station (1956), meeting room above the kitchen (1958) and expansion of the truck bays (1978). All of the manpower needed for each of these construction projects, involved volunteer fireman and community people.

**Since 1953, the Ionia Fire Company has relied on continued community support for delivering fire protection to the residents in the Hamlet of Ionia and neighboring communities.** Fast forward to today, the fire company still relies on community support. The funds needed to maintain the fire company comes from the municipal contract with the Town of West Bloomfield and funds donated to the department. Today's fire service looks and operates very differently than it did when it started in 1953. They have become the first response agency for most local emergencies. In addition to fires, the fire company runs to motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, field / grass fires, carbon monoxide calls, and public service calls such as trees or wires down and flooding.

**The fire company has a dedicated group of members who give selflessly, to respond to emergency calls and maintains readiness of the members, fleet of vehicles and equipment.** All of this is made possible by a dwindling and very precious resource, the "community people" to volunteer at the fire company. The fire company desperately needs new volunteers due to the number of aging members.



**The department needs volunteers of all ages who would consider donating their time to the department and become part of the "brotherhood" of being a volunteer firefighter in the community.** You don't need any special skill set or knowledge base to be a volunteer firefighter. Even if you are not interested in fighting fires, we need anyone that is willing to contribute time to the company. Stop at the station on Monday evenings and speak to any member at the station to learn more about the fire department.

## 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, & events!

**Sunday Worship:** 9:30 AM with a "Coffee/ Fellowship Time" after the service.

**Tuesdays:** our Pastor Rev. Dr. Robin Blair holds a weekly Bible or book study. All are welcome.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month:** Birthday Sunday, celebrating people's birthdays that are in that month.

**Last Sunday of each month:** Pot-Luck Brunch after the service, with lots of good food & fellowship.

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

**You may continue to drop off redeemable pop cans and bottles into the crate behind the church.** 100% of the redemption money is used toward our church's missions for local, national, and international causes. When dropping off pop cans & bottles, please empty & rinse, then place them into plastic bags. Thank you for donating!

**As a part of our Creation Care Program we are now collecting recyclable plastic bags to keep them out of landfills, rivers, and oceans.** Bags you can recycle are grocery and produce bags, bread bags, plastic wraps, cereal bags, and bags around paper products. NOT recyclable are bags from frozen foods, salad mix, candy, mesh bags, potato chips, pet food, or trash bags! You may drop them off in the plastic tote on our back porch.

We want to thank the whole community for their incredible support of our activities this past year – the can and bottle collection, our socials, dinners, Fall Festival, and Holiday Fair Craft Show!

### Our Upcoming Events are:

Strawberry Social – Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Fall Festival – Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

(We will not be holding a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner this year.)



## Ionia Women's Club

Mary Twardokus

The Club welcomes all women living in the Ionia area to their meetings, held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Club members share in programs, crafts, meals, community service, and friendship. We continue to make dresses for the international organization "Dress A Girl" and surgery caps for the children at Golisano Children's Hospital, and to support the community by collecting school supplies and pet items for local non-profits.

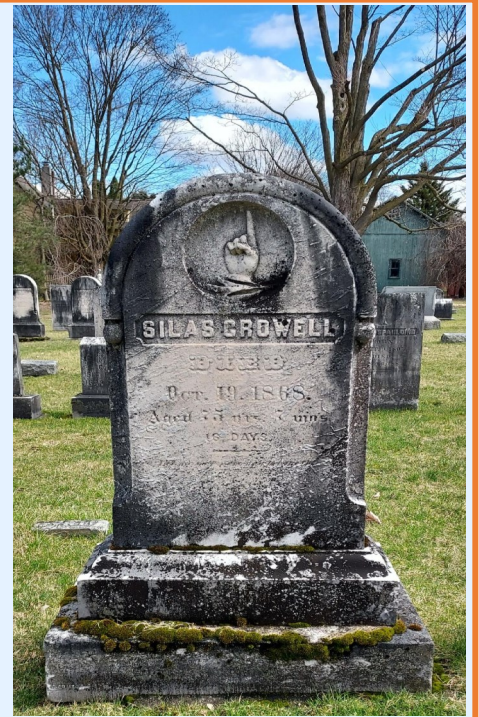
This Spring we will have the Rotary Exchange Student at Bloomfield High School speak about her home country of Chile and her experiences here, and also our version of a traditional English Tea Party. For information on joining in on the gatherings, call Mary Twardokus 657-7722.

## Millers Corners Cemetery in Ionia

Wayne Parrish, Millers Corners Cemetery Association

**Mark your calendar:** A brief Memorial Day ceremony is currently scheduled for Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

**Grave decorations:** By the time you read this, you should have removed your holiday decorations from any graves you are responsible for. 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.



**Finances:** 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. Unfortunately, the expenses have exceeded the income every year except one for quite a few years. Thankfully, last year we received donations in memory of Leona Parrish which helped our income to almost exceed our expenses. We would greatly appreciate more families directing memorial donations to the cemetery when a family member passes.

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

**Lot purchases:** Make life easier on your family by purchasing a lot before it is needed. If you wish to purchase a lot or schedule the installation of a monument, please contact the Superintendent, Larry Evans, at 585-624-4993.

## NY STATE SPRING BURN BAN - March 16 through May 14

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued their annual statewide Spring ban prohibiting residential brush burning (March 16 - May 14 for 2024). The Department reports “open burning of debris is the single largest cause of spring wildfires” in the State. Learn more at the New York State DEC website <https://dec.ny.gov>.



## Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science

Mark Minarich, Past President of 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, or just stargazing.

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 spring's upcoming events are at the Farash Center in Ionia:**

Public Star Party on Friday April 26 from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

Public Star Party on Friday May 10 from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

Public Star Party on Friday June 28 from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

Bring your Astronomy curiosity and a jacket to keep warm. Please park in the lower field in the designated area outlined by traffic cones.

Visit our website calendar for more opportunities to participate:

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

Welcome to our Astronomy Section Dark Sky site: the Marian & Max Farash Center for Observational

# Total Solar Eclipse

Monday April 8, 2024

*Tips from **Mark Minarich**, Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science:*

The Partial Phase of the eclipse for West Bloomfield **begins at 2:06 PM** with Totality beginning at 3:20 PM and lasting for 3 minutes 15 seconds. Then the partial phase resumes after totality ending at 4:33 PM.

The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” (like those for sale at Rochester Museum and Science Center \$2.50 each) or from ASRAS folks (\$2 each).

You can also project an image of the partially eclipsed sun using anything with small holes like a colander or slotted spoon or poke a hole in a piece of cardboard.

During Totality (AND ONLY DURING TOTALITY) it is safe to look directly at the sun as its bright surface will be completely covered by the moon allowing you to see the silvery tendrils of the sun’s corona streaming out from behind the black disk of the moon.

**Don’t miss this! And please observe safely!** For more information visit: <https://rochestereclipse2024.org/>



COMMUNITY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

9097 DAYLIGHT DRIVE

WEST BLOOMFIELD NY 14585

# ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Editor Michael C. Borgeest / Assistant Suzanne Washburn

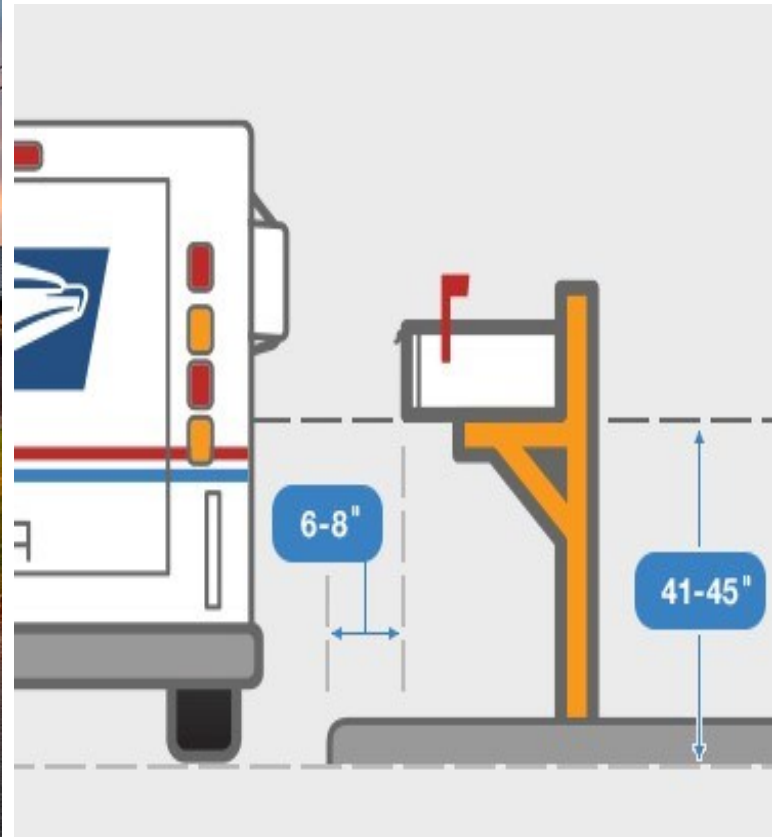
Contact Us @ 585 478 4458 and WBHSNY.ORG

Contributor Deadlines June 5, 2024 / Sept 5, 2024 / Dec 5, 2024



Wesley Road Sunrise by  
Teresa Gillette Riker

Spring can mean a time to replace a worn or damaged mailbox. Using the correct specifications can make you rural postal carriers job much easier.



## Please be aware of a new vehicle and traffic law in NYS:

According to NYS law, **drivers must use due care, reduce speed, and when possible move from the lane when approaching flashing emergency lights**, including law enforcement officers, emergency workers, tow and service operators, and other **maintenance workers** who are stopped along roadways.