

COMMUNITY FOCUS

The newsletter of the Town of West Bloomfield



Summer 2024

Town Supervisor's Update

Supervisor Todd Campbell

Happy Summer! The last couple of months have seen some big swings in our weather, from heavy rains to record setting heat, and those trends seem to be continuing for the next couple of weeks.

The Town Board will soon begin working on the budget for next year, and I have seen many of the departments from the County submitting their initial budget requests through the committee process. If you have any budget requests for the Town, please submit them as early as possible. We will again be working to stay within the allowable tax cap rate set by Albany, while ensuring that we provide the services that our residents need. We are hoping to complete two projects this summer/fall with American Rescue Plan funds—the playground area in Prouty Park and the paving of our parking lot at the Town Hall.

Thank you to those who have attended our Town Board meetings over the last couple of months—your feedback is important to me and the Board as we work on the Town's business—and if you have not been to a meeting in a while, please consider attending some Wednesday evening (2nd Wednesday of the month @7:00 PM).

Remember, we are always looking for residents to assist us on our Boards and potential Committees. **We are also looking for a new Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk**—please submit a resume if you are interested. The Town has over 20 residents who serve on the Planning and Zoning Boards, the CPIC and the Assessment Review Board —thank you to all of you that serve now or have served in the past!

The Summer Rec program is gearing up for another year. Keep an eye out for materials on how to sign up for the program that we partner with East Bloomfield on, and our partnership with the Honeoye Falls - Lima program.

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 we also have a posting about the County's hazardous materials/electronics recycling/shredding/tire events.

My door is open when I am in the office—stop in and visit if you have the chance. I can be reached at my office (585) 624-2461, via e-mail tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org, and also on Twitter and Facebook.



May your summer be full of fun, laughter, and great memories.

Brenda Thompson- Town Clerk

There are great resources available that provide valuable information for you as a Town/County resident. A few are listed below. I am always updating our Town Website to provide the most current information and links www.townofwestbloomfield.org . Please check it out, and feel free to let me know if you would like to see any additional information provided on our website.

2024 Ontario County Resource Guide: The Ontario County Resource Guide is intended to connect the community, medical providers, and service agencies with the resources available to residents of Ontario County. <https://ontariocountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/43737/2023-Ontario-County-Resource-Guide-Final-43024>

Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District: Ontario County is rich in natural resources. It contains or shares five of the Finger Lakes. Rich agricultural lands, extensive forests, abundant wildlife, and water resources enhance the quality of life for all residents of the county. It is the duty and privilege of the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District to preserve and protect these resources while helping to maintain farming as a viable, profitable, and environmentally sound enterprise. <https://www.ontswcd.com>

Ontario County Online Resources (OnCor): OnCor is a cooperative project between the Ontario County Real Property Tax Services, Information Services/GIS Program, Planning Department, Clerks Office, and County Public Works. The program leverages the resources of these individual departments and delivers them through one common web enabled interface. Interested in property? This app lets you explore tax parcels and associated information (local zoning, surveys, assessment, soils, owner history, with Pictometry, Google Street View, and Bing imagery). <http://www.ontariocountyny.gov/714/OnCor>

Ontario County Clerk: Documents & Services filed, deposited, and recorded in the Ontario County Clerk's recording office include, Business certificates (DBA's), Corporation certificates, Deeds, Judgements, Liens, Mortgages, Pistol Permit, Notaries, Survey & Subdivision Maps, UCC Filings, Veterans' discharges. The county clerk also serves as the local agent for the state commissioner of motor vehicles (DMV). <https://ontariocountyny.gov/102/County-Clerk>

TOWN HALL HOURS: MONDAY & TUESDAY 8:30 am – 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm THURSDAY 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

CLOSINGS: Juneteenth – June 19; Independence Day – July 4; Labor Day – September 2; Columbus Day – October 14

Our spring 2024 schedule has been a success so far! Despite much rain and cool weather, we've been able to get much of our major road work done in the month of May.

The process we did on Baker and Strong Roads was a Cold In Place Recycle (CIPR) It's also called "The Train" because it involves many pieces of equipment all lined up. Our town trucks spread a layer of new stone on top of the road, a mill pulverizes the old road asphalt and adds new oil, a paver lays down the new road surface and several rollers follow to smooth it all out. It's quite an impressive process and the new road is something to be proud of. This type of road will need to be finished with oil and stone this July. Because of its coarse and porous nature these roads need to be sealed before winter.

Speaking of oil and stone, some may wonder why we use oil and stone on newly paved roads. Our roads are typically built with cold mix rather than hot and it's imperative that we get them sealed before winter. Just like you might seal your driveway to protect your investment, we do the same. The stone adds traction and allows traffic to use the road immediately.

This wet spring has made the roadside grass grow very fast. Roadside mowing is pretty much a full-time job for one man. As soon as we're done with a round, it's time to start again! Also, when it's wet it's difficult for us to get far off the road with the tractors. We don't want to get stuck or damage property. Hopefully it'll be drier soon and we'll be able to mow back farther.

Along with the roadside mowing, the highway department also mows the parks, Pioneer Cemetery, the town hall. Our guys do a great job, and they care about having these places in good shape for the public and teams to use.

You may have noticed that the playground equipment in the park is missing. It was decided by the insurance company, Town Board and me that it was no longer safe and time to replace it. We are currently in the process of gathering quotes and hope to see a new playground in place later this year. (Editor note: see back cover for photographs)

The Highway Department will spend the rest of the summer repairing roads, replacing old culverts, cleaning ditches and a final round of oil and stone on Baker and Strong Roads. We hope to do a full repair on Olmstead Road next year, so you'll see us replacing cross culverts there in preparation for that work.

You may have heard about the recent death of a thruway worker, and another seriously injured in a work zone accident. It's a reminder to all of us to be patient and slow down in work zones. We want our people to go home safely to their families every day.

As always, feel free to call me if you have concerns. I like talking to residents and I'm here to help.

highwaysuper@townofwestbloomfield.org or the office at 585 624 2900

West Bloomfield Fire Dept., Inc., will be taking part in the West Bloomfield Congregational Church 225th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, August 17th. We'll have our popcorn machine set up and will be handing out "FREE" popcorn at the celebration. We will also be there to answer any questions about joining our organization and about the requirements and training to become a volunteer firefighter to help protect your neighbors and friends in our wonderful town.

We are still meeting every Monday evening, 7 pm till, to do our truck and equipment checks, and brush up on many operational and emergency situations. Anyone interested in any type of volunteerism with the fire service is welcome to join us. Even if you do not want to be involved with interior or exterior firefighting, we may still have a job for you and will train you in-house for whatever you may want to do.

Remember, joining your local fire department, is "helping us to help you." Hopefully you will never need to wake up in the middle of the night or see us in an emergency at any time. But rest assured, if you need us, we will be there.

The 2024 DEC burn ban has ended. We would like to remind everyone that ALL outside burning must be closely supervised and follow outdoor burn requirements set forth by the DEC.

On May 14th, we had an outdoor burn call and, when we arrived on scene, it was an illegal burn. The homeowner was burning bags of garbage and other junk, including asbestos shingles and toxic waste materials. PLEASE, remember the outdoor burn guidelines that the DEC states for outdoor burning must be followed. The DEC responded to the fire call and YES, tickets were issued for illegal and improper burning. The fire was also becoming out of control. West Bloomfield and Ionia firefighters put the trash fire out and made sure it would not reignite.

Public Service Announcement - BLUE LIGHTS on Vehicles

Have you ever seen someone driving behind you with a blue flashing light? What does that blue light mean? In NY State, flashing blue lights displayed (with no red flashing lights) on a vehicle indicate a volunteer firefighter is responding to a 911 call in their personal vehicle. They are responding to their firehouse, or to the scene, to provide the manpower needed for the emergency.

If you see a passenger car with a flashing blue light, please consider treating it like any other emergency vehicle. We (your community volunteers) are requesting the right of way. This is a courtesy light. When it is safe to do so, pull over to the right and come to a complete stop so that we may travel safely past.

Many people don't realize what these flashing blue lights are for. Every second counts and we ask you to help us help you. You never know, we could be responding to an emergency for a friend, or one of your loved ones.

The Ionia Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., has relied on financial support and financial contributions from the community since its beginnings. The fire company has been very fortunate that residents and businesses in the hamlet of Ionia continue to financially support the growth of the company. The fire company also appreciates the donations of manpower and equipment loaned to the company over the years by fire companies within Ontario and Monroe Counties to make the first carnivals so successful.

In August 1954 the Ionia Fire Protective Organization voted to have a Carnival to raise funds. The first Carnival was held by the Protectives on Friday and Saturday August 27th and 28th 1954. Mr. Fredrick Howes, Jr., of Howes Implement Company allowed the Ionia Fire Protective Organization to hold the Carnival in the grass lot east of the implement company. This space is the current lawn at the end of the Depot building across from the current Post Office. The Fire Protective members and volunteers from the community helped to clear the lot and run wires for lighting. Harold Hatch purchased and trucked loads of stone dust to fill holes in the lot. Walt Neenan from East Bloomfield Fire Department made available carnival equipment and manpower to assist at the Carnival. Keith Bennett and Ray Appleton offered equipment to dig holes to install poles for the lighting. Stewart Caves of Caves Lumber Company (Bloomfield) loaned the organization lumber for use at the carnival. The lumber was then returned to Caves Lumber in September 1954. Several neighboring Fire Departments offered carnival equipment and manpower when they learned Ionia Protectives were doing a carnival. The estimated profit from the Carnival after expenditures was approximately \$1,830.80.

Leading up to the carnivals, department members, their families, and community volunteers donated their time. Many spouses donated baked goods for the fire company to raffle off or use as prizes for games of chance at fund raisers. When the fire department ran the carnival, they required additional people to assist. People from the community came to help the carnival succeed by running or staffing booths and donating their talents and time. Many in the department had family members who worked at the carnival. One example is the Pizza stand run by Skinny O'Brien and family. The pizzas were made from supplies sourced in Canandaigua, assembled and cooked in a pizza oven behind the fire station.

Some examples of the various booths at the carnivals include: Baseball Throw, Cake Wheel, Chicken Bar-B-Q, Steamed Clams, Beer Tent, Nickle Pitch, Penny Pitch, Pick-a-duck, Hotdog / Hamburg Stand, Pizza Stand, Dunking Booth and a Cake Wheel. The carnival rides were set up and run by outside companies. The Kiddie Parade became very popular with the children in the community. The Fire Department gave out prizes based on creativity.

The Firemen's Parade involved Fire Companies and marching bands from Ontario, Livingston, and Monroe Counties. Judging of the participants was done by FASNY-Northern Central. Parade participants were judged based on standardized points. Awards were given by Ionia Fire Company to the various winners in many areas including marching bands, number of marchers, and apparatus.

As time went on, running a successful firemen's carnival required additional manpower and time commitment of the department members. Fire company members became less interested in the amount of work to set-up the carnival, run the carnival and the fireman's parade, and then tear down and clean-up the grounds. By the early 1980s, firemen and community people were experiencing dwindling numbers of volunteers for such events. This was complicated by increasing New York State regulations requiring licensing for the sale of alcohol on the grounds and permits for games of chance. In 1985, members of the fire company voted to end the carnival. For a brief point in history, the fire company tried an antique show and sale on the grounds with the department selling chicken barbeque and hotdogs / hamburgers.

Today, the Ionia Volunteer Fire Company runs a French Fry booth at the Mendon Fire Department Carnival. This annual three-day carnival nets the Ionia Fire Company a profit that helps to offset the annual operating budget. The main source of funds for the operating budget comes from a Fire Protection contract with the Town of West Bloomfield.

Memorial Day Parades 2024. Since the Covid Pandemic, our Memorial Day Parades are just not what they used to be. I am aware that here in West Bloomfield and Ionia, for years we could be sure that the Bloomfield American Legion would be organizing and leading the local parades. However, as our Veterans grow older, there are fewer and fewer people to join the Legion and step up to take charge of the parades and their organization.

Covid was a heart breaker with new rules, social distancing, and uncertainty. Back then many of us wondered if we would even have a Memorial Day parade. As folks reached out with questions about this, our Scouts stepped up and performed a flag ceremony at the Cemeteries.

Now let me tell you how this old Scout feels about this whole thing . . . I am an American, I call myself a patriot. I try to instruct through my actions and my directions with our youth, Citizenship. Though I did not serve in the military, my family has a history of service – my uncle served in Korea with the Navy,

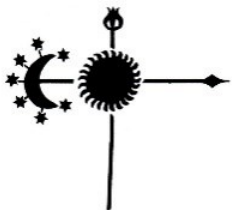


two of my father's cousins flew fighter planes in WW2, and both of my great grandfathers served in WW1, for the USA and for Canada. I have the greatest respect for those who served. Even more for those who gave their lives for the freedoms and liberties we have as Americans. However, I am a Scout leader. Until this year, I did not feel a responsibility to organize Memorial Day Parades. But next year I will be putting my efforts into whatever help is needed to organize and plan the West Bloomfield and Ionia parades.

I am inviting anyone from our communities who may have served in any of the US Armed Services to come join in honoring our fallen men and women on Memorial Day in 2025. I would truly like to see if we could get 7 service men and women to join us in a true Rifle Volley. Please reach out to me if you would be willing to join us in this.

Our Troop has just survived another year of directing cars at the Mendon Firemen's Carnival. The Troop has managed the parking operation for about 15 years now, and each year we find ways to improve and streamline the process. With great weather all three days came huge crowds and lots of cars. Fortunately, we had plenty of time before the event to set up the two very large parking areas. On Thursday, capacity was about 80%, but on Friday and Saturday we filled both lots and then had to find spaces for those who continued to pour into the event. Emptying the lot proved to be an even greater challenge on Friday night. With three Scouts and a handful of parents/volunteers we were able to facilitate the task with ease... This is the second year with a new traffic pattern that makes it considerably easier to maintain traffic flow and accommodate patrons at a faster rate than in the past.

We are still looking for new Scouts! We need to find at least two this year in order to renew our Charter. If you have a soon-to-be sixth grader or an 11-year-old youth, come and visit us at one of our meetings on Tuesday night at 7 pm at the West Bloomfield Fire Department. Or, contact me, Tim Schiefen, at forguru@frontiernet.net or 585-509-1350



WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Suzanne Washburn

Our Logo: As West Bloomfield Congregational Church celebrates its 225th anniversary, we honor the church's historic role in shaping our town's story, and we thank the members for allowing us to use the image of their "moon and stars" weathervane as our Society logo. The weathervane has stood atop the church steeple since the 1800s – a true West Bloomfield landmark seen for miles in all directions.

32nd COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sat., July 13th (9 – 4) & Sun., July 14th (9 – 1) at the Society, 8966 Rt. 5 & 20

Donate to our primary fund raiser: We need clean, usable items in good condition. Drop them off at the Society on these dates: **Monday and Tuesday, June 24-25 & July 8-9 from 2-7 pm, or Saturdays, June 29 & July 6 from 9 am-Noon.** (*Sorry, we cannot accept clothing, particle board or large upholstered furniture, car seats, TVs, computers*). Need us to pick up a larger item? Call 585-755-5464 to discuss.

Your donations help us raise funds to preserve, promote, and protect the history of West Bloomfield and care for our 19th century building (the former St. Joseph's Church). We rely on these funds to keep the lights on and offer programs and services to residents. Monetary gifts are also gratefully accepted. Mail to WBHS, PO Box 173, West Bloomfield NY 14585.

Have Your Own Yard Sale on Our Lawn: Rent a space 16 x 16'. Take part one day or two (no extra charge). Fees – Society Members \$20, Non-members living in West Bloomfield \$25, other Non-members \$30. Fees due in advance. For information, email lauraadpearce@gmail.com or call 585-657-7722.

Volunteer: Not a member? We can still use your help before, during, or after the sale. Have fun and get to know your neighbors. Call 585-657-7060 to learn more.

Shop, Dine, and Visit on Sale Day! Hundreds of bargains out front and inside, more yard sales on the side lawn, and West Bloomfield historical exhibits inside. Coffee Bar, Breakfast, and Lunch on site.

Find Yard Sale details & WBHS info on our website wbhsny.org -- on Facebook at West Bloomfield Historical Society New York – or in the Genesee Valley Pennysaver, the Sentinel, and local publications.

COMING UP AT WBHS:

Tuesday, Aug. 6th, 7 pm: Public Program – Watch for announcements in July

Saturday, Aug. 17th: Booth at the West Bloomfield Congregational Church 225th Anniversary

Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, 7 pm: Public Program – "The Tiffany Hidden Gem." Learn about the Tiffany-designed Willard Chapel in Auburn, NY. Presented by Susan Boardman

West Bloomfield Congregational Church

Sarah Williams, Program Director

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.”

Dear members of our cherished congregation and community, WBUCC is thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating our remarkable 225th anniversary this year! 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. Throughout the coming months, we have an exciting array of events planned, spanning from grand celebrations to intimate gatherings. Join us as we reflect on our rich history, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future filled with solidarity and purpose. Your presence and participation will make this milestone truly special. Here’s to 225 years of faith, community, and shared memories!

July 13th: Organ Concert – Come hear our beautiful 1875 Davis Organ

July 27th: Progressive Dinner

Come celebrate our Quasquibicentennial with us on August 17th & 18th

225th Anniversary Community Party on Saturday, August 17th, 10 AM – 4 PM

• Scrumptious food booths • Live music performances • Exciting games and activities • Apple Pie Contest • And much more!

Special 225th Anniversary Service, Sunday, August 18th, 10 AM. Join us for a special service honoring our 225-year history, followed by a festive coffee hour/ light lunch with extra treats and fellowship. Please RSVP for food by August 10th.

Be a part of this historic celebration and share in the joy and community spirit that has made West Bloomfield Congregational Church a cherished place for 225 years. We look forward to celebrating with you! For more information and to RSVP please go to wbccucc.org

It is also time that we publicly announce that Pastor Corey will be leaving us in October as he moves on to pursue a calling with the Haden Institute. “It breaks my heart to leave you, but this is a clear, natural call which I feel I must answer. I have dedicated a full two-thirds of my adult life to this beautiful faith community, and I have been richly rewarded for it. In many ways, all of you and the spirit of our church have raised and shaped me to proceed in this manner for the final quarter of my life.” Our Quasquibicentennial is a great time to visit West Bloomfield Congregational Church and bid farewell to Corey, but you are always welcome anytime. You are Loved.

West Bloomfield Congregational Church is proud to house 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 “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

WEST BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC



225th

ANNIVERSARY

1799-2024





ALLENS HILL FREE LIBRARY Christine Green, Library Director

The library has lots of fun summer reading activities planned for patrons of all ages! This year's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Be on the lookout for new Take & Make kits for kids and adults with crafts, nature activities, and adventure-themed kits. Our current Storywalk® book is "Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt" by Kate Messner. We will feature new books to go with our theme throughout the summer. Walk around our outdoor space and read some great stories (and check out our beautiful gardens and outdoor games).

We will also host our 3rd Annual Tiny Art Show and feature programs that include an animal presentation for kids, local history presentations, homesteading programs, art activities, and other new adventures. And there will be pajama story hours and family game nights for summer fun! Our Makerspace offers kids' and adult coloring materials. An added bonus – our building is naturally cool and a great place to spend hot summer days!

Save the date for the Allens Hill Free Library Reception and Outdoor Dedication on Sat., July 20th. Stop in for cake and explore our outdoor space as we dedicate it to several past board members and patrons.

Bake and book sales this summer: Stop and see us at the West Bloomfield Historical Society Yard Sale on July 13th & 14th, and the West Bloomfield Congregational Church's Quasquicentennial Celebration on August 17th. We will have 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 during library hours. (Please note: We cannot take textbooks, encyclopedias, or items in poor condition as they are costly for us to dispose of.) We will also hold a Triennial Fund Drive to collect donations to support parking area updates and to build accessibility.

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 offer internet access, computers for patron use, and printing services. We currently have fishing kits available to borrow with a NYS Freshwater Fishing Guide and 2 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 **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/ahflibrary>

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

Ionia United Methodist Church

Mary Twardokus

At the Ionia United Methodist Church, 2120 Elton Road in Ionia, all are welcome to our services, fellowship times, & events!

Sundays, 9:00 AM: Starting on Sunday, June 16th, Dr. Rev. Robin Blair will hold a Bible/Book Study before Sunday Worship.

Sunday Worship Time Change: As of June 16th worship will be at 10:00 AM with a “Coffee/Fellowship Time” after the service.

2nd 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 and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY



You may continue to drop off only 5 cent redeemable pop cans & bottles into the crate behind the church. 100% 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. Please, no recyclable jugs or bottles! Thank you for donating and recycling.

As a part of our Creation Care Program, we are now taking our recyclable plastic bags to collection bins in stores to keep those bags out of landfills, rivers, and oceans. We encourage everyone to recycle all other items that can be recycled by putting them in your trash collector’s recycling container.

We want to thank the whole community for their incredible support of all our activities – the can and bottle collection, recycling, our Strawberry Social, Fall Festival, and Holiday Fair Craft Show!

Our Upcoming Events are:

Strawberry Social – Thursday, June 20th, 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Dine-in or takeout, items priced a la carte

Fall Festival & Tractor Parade – Saturday, September 21st with 1 pm Tractor Parade, food, BBQ, games, displays, hayride, and more!

Holiday Fair Craft Show – tentatively on Saturday, November 23rd at the Bloomfield High School

Millers Corners Cemetery Wayne Parrish, Millers Corners Cemetery Association

The 2024 meeting of the Millers Corners Cemetery in Ionia was held on March 27th



*The current officers and trustees were all re-elected for the coming year.

*One bid was received for lawn mowing and it was awarded to William Boldt.

*No changes were made to the price of lots or burial services.

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.

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

The North Bloomfield Community Association is a group of residents that live within ½ mile radius of the North Bloomfield Chapel. It does not matter that we live in 3 different counties and 3 different towns -- the Association strives to preserve and share the heritage and history of North Bloomfield through the preservation and community use of the North Bloomfield Chapel. As we continue to improve the Chapel for the next century, we look forward to hosting many more events there. Everyone is welcome.



It was a wonderful Memorial Day. The ability to get together to see friends and neighbors in our busy lives is always good. Thanks to all who came out for our parade and made it one of the best attended ever. We had several folks from out of town, the furthest being a 90 plus-year-old veteran from Cupertino, CA. There was plenty of food afterward in the Chapel and the rain held off until it was all over.

We had a building maintenance day and replaced some of the clapboards on the building. We also discovered that we were being used as a storage unit for squirrels' nuts. We removed 2 almost full garbage cans of nuts and any potential entrance into the building was eliminated. The trees that were behind the building were also removed, exposing the very peak of the back of the building which hasn't been seen in over 40 years. Many, many thanks to Scott Storke, John Van de Mar, Terry Haller, Hal Featherman, and Chris Meyer for your hard work. We are continuing with our building enhancements to bring the Chapel to a sufficient level of sturdiness to have it last another 100+ years. There is, of course, plenty more we need to do to preserve the building.

Notecards for the North Bloomfield area are still available for \$5. You will get 6 cards/envelopes which are blank inside. These have been a big hit, so make sure you get yours today! We have two different sets available: current scenes from the community and historical scenes. They can be purchased from Community Association members or at monthly meetings. Monies raised from this will be used towards our continuing maintenance of, and building improvements to, the Chapel.

Our meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Chapel, 1924 State Route 65. Our next meeting is set for Wednesday, July 17th at 7 PM. Meetings are held from May to October. Dues are \$20 per family, annually, and are paid on the honor system. Dues help offset our electrical bill and improvements at the Chapel. Please make your check payable to the **North Bloomfield Community Association** and mail it to: Doreen Haller/ NBCA/ 1891 State Route 65/ Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Doreen Haller @ 585-732-7545 or Doreen@treeskiers.com.

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

Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science



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

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

Public Star Party on Friday, August 30, from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

Public Star Party on Friday, September 27, 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

Welcome to our Astronomy Section Dark Sky site: the Marian & Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy – Mark Minarich, Past President ASRAS

Responsibility and Privilege - Shall we vote? By Ruth Cahn

Are you tired of hearing the same old media dialogue about the 2024 elections? Let's make some changes! ***Your thoughts as expressed through your vote are very important.***

It is unlikely that the media will focus on the biographies and accomplishments of the candidates. If you personally know a candidate, send emails and letters to the media in support of their candidacy. Opinion pages of local newspapers (where they still exist) are good sources to learn about candidates and to voice your opinions.

1. Can we demand more focused and in-depth information about hard-working state, local, and town candidates? Let's contact our local and state parties. Volunteer for a candidate that appeals to your interests! Each one brings an interesting personal resume.
2. **If you are a 16-year-old, you need to register NOW. You can't vote until you are 18, but you can encourage your friends to get registered. Our democracy needs your generation's creative thoughts!**
3. Do your own candidate research. Read biographies/autobiographies about the candidates. Read local newspaper opinion columns, peruse weekly news magazines. Look for thoughtful, well researched sources.
4. Avoid the usual online social media as they are very good at sowing **dissention** between ideas and candidates and people. Our democracy deserves our clearest and best thoughts.
5. If you have questions about: How to vote early by mail or in person, absentee voting, or military voting, **go to the Ontario County NY Board of Elections website.** <https://ontariocountyny.gov/107/Board-of-Elections>
6. A sample ballot will be on the Board of Elections site about one month before the election. Also, one month before the election you can call the County Board of Elections office at 585-396-4005 to receive a ballot via email.

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 at 585 478 4458 and WBHSNY.ORG

Contributor Deadlines Sept 5, 2024 / Dec 5, 2024 / Mar 5, 2025

Just a small sample of the age related deterioration of the playground equipment. And of course these examples are just the visible failures. Photos by Jeff Ball, Highway Superintendent



Stay Cool

Stay inside an air conditioned place or go to a pool

Stay Hydrated

Fill a reusable bottle with water and bring it with you

Summer clothes

Wear lightweight, light colored clothes

Plan Your Day

Avoid going out or exercising at the hottest times of the day

Help Others

Check in on those at risk, like the sick, older adults, children

Stay Healthy in the Heat

Source: National Weather Service