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Essex-Hudson Greenway Gets One Step Closer to Reality

For years, advocates throughout the region have fought to ensure that a 9-mile long stretch of abandoned railway connecting Essex and Hudson Counties would become a one of a kind linear park, similar to New York City's High Line. That dream received a massive boost in November when Governor Phil Murphy committed \$65 million to purchase the land and develop it into a new crown jewel of the state park system.

Governor Murphy made the announcement at the Bloomfield Public Library, surrounded by officials from both counties. Once completed, the Greenway will

create a revolutionary new transportation and recreation option, protect our environment by taking cars off the roads and support economic development in the region.

The park will connect Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield, Belleville, Newark, Kearny, Secaucus and Jersey City with a wide path that will include walking and biking trails, public art installations, sitting areas and much more. While no completion date has been set, the fact that there is now dedicated state funding shows that there is true momentum behind the project.



The Essex-Hudson Greenway is a tremendously exciting opportunity to deliver a once in a generation park to North Jersey families. Our administration will always support creative uses of open space that improve the quality of life for our residents. I am thankful to Governor Murphy as well as the many activists that helped to make this possible."

Mayor Michael Venezia



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Council Meetings

Important Election Dates

ALL MEETINGS (Conference and Regular) are held in the Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building, unless noted otherwise.

All Questions should be directed to the Municipal Clerk's Office at 973-680-4015.

- | | |
|---|--|
| January 3, 6:30pm
Organizational/
Conference | April 11, 7pm
Conference Meeting |
| January 24, 7pm
Regular Meeting | April 25, 7pm
Regular Meeting |
| February 7, 7pm
Conference Meeting | May 9, 7pm
Conference Meeting |
| February 28, 7pm
Regular Meeting | May 23, 7pm
Regular Meeting |
| March 14, 7pm
Conference Meeting | June 13, 7pm
Conference Meeting |
| March 28, 7pm
Regular Meeting | June 27, 7pm
Regular Meeting |

- Tuesday, February 1** – Pick up petitions for Mayor and Council At-Large seats at the Municipal Clerk's Office, 8:30am to 4:30pm.
- Monday, April 4** – Last day to file petitions for the June Primary, file by 4:00pm.
- Wednesday, April 13** – Last day for party declaration.
- Tuesday, May 17** – Last day to register to vote or transfer registration (Clerk's Office open 8:30am-9pm).
- Tuesday, May 31** – Last day to request a vote by mail ballot by mail.
- Tuesday, June 7** – Primary Election Day. Polls open from 6:00am to 8:00pm.

All election questions should be directed to the Municipal Clerk's Office at (973) 680-4015.

St. Thomas the Apostle School
 "The Catholic School of Bloomfield"
 50 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield
www.staschoolnj.org
2022/2023 Registration Still Available
 Middle States Accredited
 Pre K 3 and 4 Full or Half Day
 Full-Day Kindergarten
 BeforeCare & AfterCare Programs
 World Language—Art—Music
 Extra-Curricular Activities
Grades PK 3- 8
 Call 973-338-8505
 to schedule a tour!

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 Izabela Van Tassel
 Manager
 NJ Lic. #4924

Continuing the COVID-19 Fight

Since March 2020, the fight against COVID-19 has taken on many shapes and forms. Throughout the crisis, Bloomfield has followed the science and acted in the best interest of its residents. The Bloomfield Health Department is constantly monitoring the situation and communicating with state health officials. Right now, there is an emerging variant called Omicron.

Though we are still learning about the Omicron variant there is one thing that we do know. **The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated.** The vaccines are safe and extremely effective. COVID-19 vaccines are free and are available for anyone 5 years of age and above.

If you are 18 years of age or older you may also get a booster shot if you were vaccinated six months ago or longer. If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccines or would like to schedule an appointment to get one, call the Bloomfield Health Department at 973-680-4058 or go to the CDC website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).



Mayor

Michael Venezia

Our best tools to win the fight against COVID-19 are the vaccines. We know that the vaccines greatly reduce the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. If you have not been vaccinated yet please consider doing so for the safety of not only yourself but our entire community."



Interim Township Administrator

Anthony Dezenzo

The last nearly two years have been an incredible challenge for many in Bloomfield but I am grateful to now have multiple vaccines that are as effective as they are. Together, we have the ability to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect our most vulnerable residents."

Human Services is Here to Help!

Call the Bloomfield Human Services Department if you need help with back rent, mortgage, utilities, food, prescriptions, or health insurance. Experienced social workers will provide an in-person or virtual screening and help any residents who meet eligibility criteria with

applications for an assortment of assistance programs. They also help seniors who are in need of Medicaid, Medicare, or home health aides. Human Services social workers can be reached at (973) 680-4017.

BLOOMFIELD HUMAN SERVICES CAN HELP!

Call Bloomfield Human Services if you need help with:

- **Back rent**
- **Mortgage**
- **Utility assistance**
- **Food programs**
- **Prescription programs**
- **Health insurance**
- **Senior services**
- **Mental Health Services**

Experienced social workers will provide an in person or virtual screening and help any eligible residents with applications for an assortment of assistance programs.

Human Services social workers can be reached at **973-680-4017**



Reminder for Pet Owners



The Township of Bloomfield requires a license for dogs and cats within the township limits. Pet renewal notices for the licensing year 2022-2023 will be mailed in early May and all pets should have their new licenses issued by June 30th, 2022.

The application can be found on our website or in the Municipal Clerk's Office - Room 214. For any licensing questions, please contact the Clerk's Office: 973-680-4015.

You will need to mail in or drop off:

1. A copy of the Rabies Vaccination Certificate (valid until after May 1st, 2023)

2. Fee: \$22.00 (Spayed/Neutered) or \$25 (Not Spayed/Neutered) payable only via check, money order or credit card

Information about the free Rabies Clinic, sponsored by the Animal Shelter, will be provided in the renewal letter and advertised on the township website in the spring. For any questions regarding the upcoming clinic, please contact the Animal Shelter: 973-748-0794

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- Custom Area Rugs
- Kitchen Floors
- Ceramic & Vinyl Tile
- Laminate Flooring
- Grout Armor Color Sealer
- Carpet Tiles

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- Carpet Cleaning & Floorwaxing
- Restretching & Repairs
- Rubber Floors
- Interior Painting

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Bloomfield Public Library

973-566-6200 • reference@bloomfield.bccls.org • bplnj.org



The library offers free programs including Book Clubs (NonFiction, Romance, & Queer), Poetry Club, monthly concerts and more!

Free "Healthy Meal in a Box" sponsored by Toni's Kitchen on Wednesdays at 12pm (sandwiches also available). First come, first served. The Little Food Pantry in the courtyard is available 24/7.

Tablets and WiFi hotspots available to Bloomfield cardholders. Use our resources for your business and homework needs (Citizenship, ESL, genealogy, job hunting, etc). Trained Librarians are standing by!

Need a knife sharpener? Metal detector? Card reader? Check out our new Library of Things, provided by our Library Foundation, launching in January 2022. Call for details.

Storytime begins January 11th. Storytime Boogie with Ms. Katie from Shooting Star Dance Center will take place at the library at 11am on: Jan. 12th, Feb. 9th, March

9th, Apr. 13th, May 11th, and June 8th.

Brady the Therapy Dog visits the library one Saturday a month; dates TBA. Children are invited to read with Brady and view a demonstration for a take-home craft (craft kits will be provided).

Programs and procedures, including locations and registrations, are subject to change in accordance with current safety guidelines. Contact us for more information or follow us online.

Dr. Pamela Ledig
 Pediatric Dentist
 Specialty #6221



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299 Glenwood Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003
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Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

(973) 743-9074 • bloomfieldrecreation.org

2022 Winter Programs

Registration is underway and most programs start the second week of January. Register today and take full advantage of our winter program offerings. *Pre-registration required for all winter programs.* Sign up in-person Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm, and Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. You may also sign up online any time through our website at bloomfieldrecreation.org. *Now accepting Visa and Mastercard.* Dates and times for all programs are listed on the website. **All programs listed below will take place at the Civic Center unless otherwise noted.**

Mondays	Meditation for Relaxation Qigong for Winter Health and Vitality (Zoom)	(Civic Center & Zoom)
	Tap & Ballet	American Sign Language
	Hip Hop Dance	Thursdays
	Art of Filmmaking	Beginner Kung Fu
	Magic with Joe Fischer	Ceramics
		Watercolor
Tuesdays	Music Appreciation	
	Qigong for Winter Health and Vitality (Zoom)	Guitar Building
	Minds in Motion - Bridges and Building	Fridays
	Chef It Up! - Winter Wonderfood	Beginner 1 Kung Fu
		Beginner 2 Kung Fu
	Drawing from Imagination	Saturdays
		Adult Yoga
Wednesdays	Zumba	(Civic Center & Zoom)
	(Civic Center & Zoom)	Fashion Illustration Step by Step
	Yoga Kids	Children's Art
	(Civic Center & Zoom)	Sundays
	Adult Yoga	Pee Wee Basketball
	(Civic Center & Zoom)	(Bloomfield High School)

Adult Sports

Open Gym Basketball Co-ed

Ages 35+: Mondays, 8-9:45pm

Oakview Elementary School

Ages 18+ • Co-ed: Thursdays, 8-9:45pm

Bloomfield High School

**Must be a Bloomfield resident to participate (proof of ID required)*

**Season passes can be purchased for \$40 at the gym or via our website.*

Pickle Ball Open Gym Co-ed • Ages 18+

Wednesdays 8-9:45pm

Oakview School

Men's Adult Basketball League

We are looking for full teams of men, 18 and older to participate in a competitive Adult Basketball League held at the Middle School Mon - Thurs from 8:30pm to 9:30pm.

For more information on any of our adult open gyms or leagues please email dmorton@bloomfieldtwpnj.com

Senior Programs

Senior Exercise

Thursdays (Civic Center)

Zumba Gold

Wednesdays & Fridays (Civic Center & Zoom)

Special Needs Programming

The CARE Station

Aftercare program for students 7-16 held at Carteret Elementary School. Provides academic support, recreational activities and snacks. Starting in 2022 this program will also combine features of our popular Friday Night Canteens where special Friday night activities and excursions will be planned. *For more information contact John Baltz at 973-725-4485*

Bloomfield Art League

Winter classes will be held at the Civic Center starting early January, and spring classes will begin in April. Classes are for ages 6 and up and are taught by professional artists.

Town Paints, our annual art exhibition, will take place on the Historic Town Green in May and is open to all ages. Prizes for amateur, professional and youth artists. Start working on your pieces!

Exhibition Opportunities

Starting in 2022 the first floor of the Civic Center will be used as a gallery space for local artists. If you're interested in displaying your artwork at the Civic Center, or would like to create your own show, email culturalaffairs@bloomfieldtwpnj.com. The space is free and there will be no fees to the artist if artwork is sold.

Summer Camp Registration

The Recreation Station, a full day summer camp for children grades K-7 is a Bloomfield tradition! Campers will create lasting friendships with classmates and new friends. Our camp schedule is designed to pique a variety of interests and enhance social skills. Early drop off and late pick up for an additional fee.

BPRCA will administer its Kindergarten Preparation Camp from 8:30am to 3:30pm. This program is designed for your child to have an enjoyable summer experience while preparing for kindergarten in the fall. Camp location TBD.

If your child participated last summer you will receive a pre-registration packet in early April. If you are new to camp you will be able to participate in open enrollment in early May.

2022 Sports Clinics

More than 20 sports clinics for Bloomfield youth will be offered this summer at the end of the school year. In person and online registration to begin on or about Wednesday, May 18th. Please sign up for the monthly EBuzz newsletter for the exact dates and times of the sports clinics.

Bloomfield Soccer Club

The Bloomfield Soccer Club will open general registration for play in our spring youth soccer

league in February. Grades Pre-K-8. Spring soccer runs from April to June. For more information please visit bloomfieldsoccer.us

William Foley Football & Cheerleading League

The William Foley Football Organization is planning to bring back spring Flag Football and will try to schedule around traditional spring sports. Fall flag & tackle football and cheerleading will be offered in the fall during the traditional season for grades K-8.

Little League Baseball

This year the registration process has been converted to online registration.

EARLY REGISTRATION: Dec. 13- Jan. 15
\$95 per child; \$150 for 2 or more children.

Regular Registration fees (after 1/15)
\$115 per child; \$175 for 2 or more children.

Player evaluations are scheduled on Sunday, March 6th at the Bloomfield Middle School (Times TBD).

****New for 2022**** The Bloomfield Little League will administer a 50/70 League for players 13 years old. To participate you must have been born between 9/1/08 and 8/31/09.

Little League Opening Day will take place on Saturday, April 23rd and Softball Opening Day will take place on Sunday, April 24th.

Peppermint Softball

Registration for Grades 3-8 will begin in early February. Player evaluations will take place the week of March 14th. If you are interested in coaching please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department at dmorton@bloomfieldtwpnj.com.

The season will begin in April and go into June.

Bloomfield Baseball Association

The Bloomfield Baseball Association is a weeknight, wood bat baseball league that is open to all teens 13-17. All games are played in Bloomfield. We welcome all skill levels and each player is assigned to a team. Each team plays 2-3 nights per week March-June. Summer ball is offered for July-August. Online registration opens on January 17th. Sign up with a friend or group. New coaches or volunteers are always welcomed. Refer to our website for more information at BBA.world

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

(973) 743-9074 • bloomfieldrecreation.org

Memorial Day Parade

May 30, 9:30am, Brookside Park to Town Green
Groups to assemble at 9am

Past and present veterans, community organizations, sports teams, classic cars and much more! • Rides can be arranged for Veterans who are unable to march • Classic cars are asked to "stage" on Warren Street and join in the festivities

4th of July Celebration & Fireworks Spectacular!

July 4, 5:30pm, Foley Field/Memorial Park – JFK Dr.

Enjoy food vendors, kids' rides and games, awards, DJ/live music, and the best fireworks around.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:30pm.

Governor Murphy Signs Single-Use Plastics and Paper Ban



Beginning in May, both plastic and paper single-use bags, as well as disposable food containers and cups made from polystyrene foam, will be banned statewide. This bill is a significant step towards reducing the harm and pollution that these products cause to our environment.

The Bloomfield Recycling Committee has begun their fundraising campaign soliciting sponsorships for their new reusable "Bloomfield

Recycling" tote bag to be given out at participating businesses as well as to residents participating at recycling events and other town-wide events this year.

Any questions regarding Recycling should be directed to Louise Palagano, Recycling Coordinator, at Lpalagano@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or by calling her at 973-259-3162.

Department of Public Works & Park Maintenance

Visit the Bloomfield Department of Public Works and Parks on Facebook to get all of our timely updates, or call (973) 680-4127 with questions on dates or any service requests.

Garbage & Recycling Calendar

Yellow = Holidays when pickups will be suspended: January 1, May 30 and July 4. Garbage will be picked up on your next regularly scheduled day. Recycling is delayed until next business day.

Unshaded: COMMINGLED **Shaded:** CARDBOARD & MIXED PAPER

January							February							March							April							May							June								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31			
30	31																																										

NOT Accepted in Recycling: Accepted plastic recycling codes: 1, 2, 5 ONLY

- ⊗ Car/truck tires
- ⊗ Styrofoam
- ⊗ Pyrex, ceramic cups, plates, clay bottles & pots, 6-pack drink holders
- ⊗ Pizza boxes
- ⊗ Molded lawn chairs
- ⊗ Plastic bags
- ⊗ Wrapping paper
- ⊗ Buckets
- ⊗ Auto glass/parts
- ⊗ Lightbulbs

During snow emergencies, check to see if you live on a snow street here:

bloomfieldtwpnj.com/246/Public-Works-Park-Maintenance

Events

Spring Paper Shredding Event

May 14, 9AM-12PM • Pulaski Park
Parking Lot, 24 Mt. Vernon Ave
This event is for residents only and you must provide proof of residency. This service is not available to commercial or industrial facilities. Call (973) 259-3162 for more information.

Essex County Household Hazardous Waste

Collection Day • May 7, 8:30AM-4PM
Essex County Fleet Management
99 West Bradford Ave, Cedar Grove
Call (973) 792-9060 for more information or visit ecuanj.com for a list of acceptable and unacceptable items.

Essex County Computer & Electronics

Collection Day • May 21, 8:30AM-4PM
Essex County Fleet Management
99 West Bradford Ave, Cedar Grove
Call (973) 792-9060 for more information or visit ecuanj.com

Saturday Recycling Hours • WEEKLY 9AM-1PM

Public Works Yard, 230 Grove Street
No garbage or bulk drop off. Bring only mixed paper, commingled items, cardboard, metal and electronics.

Bulk Pickup

Large item pickup (no metals, appliances) occurs on the second garbage pickup day of each week. 3 items maximum.

Metals and Appliances (No Electronics)

Picked up every Tuesday. Call DPW no later than 3pm the Monday before scheduled pickup.

Recycle Coach App

The Township of Bloomfield has partnered with Recycle Coach to help residents reduce waste and become better recyclers. The Recycle Coach App is available for FREE, download on Android & iOS.

Municipal Directory

Main Number (973) 680-4000
Animal Control *For Emergencies*
(973) 680-4141
Animal Shelter *General Inquiries*
(973) 748-0194
Assessor (973) 680-4021
Board of Education
(973) 680-8500
Building & Zoning (973) 680-4053
Clerk's Office (973) 680-4015
Housing (Section 8) (973) 680-4188
Court/Violations (973) 680-4078
Dial-A-Ride (973) 566-7194
Engineering (973) 680-4009
Finance (973) 680-4038
Fire Department (973) 680-4153
Health Department (973) 680-4024
Human Services (973) 680-4017
Information Systems
(973) 680-4670
Law Department (973) 680-4066
Library (973) 566-6200
Mayor & Council (973) 680-4077
Nursing (973) 680-4058
Office of Emergency Management
(973) 680-4177
Parking (973) 680-8960
Personnel (973) 680-4007
Planning & Zoning Boards
(973) 680-4012
Police Department (973) 680-4141
Public Works (973) 680-4127
Recreation (973) 743-9074
Recycling (973) 259-3162
Tax Department (973) 680-4049
Township Administrator
(973) 680-4006
Water Department (973) 680-4051
WBMA TV (973) 680-4122
Your Elected Officials
Mayor Michael Venezia
1st Ward Councilwoman
Jenny Mundell
2nd Ward Councilman
Nicholas Joanow
3rd Ward Councilwoman
Sarah Cruz
At-Large Councilmembers:
Dr. Wartyna "Nina" Davis
Ted Gamble
Rich Rockwell

TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD
1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA
BLOOMFIELD, NJ 07003



A MESSAGE FROM

Mayor Venezia

The safety of Bloomfield families has always been and will always be my top concern. The COVID-19 crisis that has gripped our community and the world for the past two years has caused us to take proactive actions to limit the spread of the virus and protect our most vulnerable residents.

Despite vaccination numbers continuing to tick up, we are seeing a spike in cases throughout the region as a result of the Delta and Omicron variants. It is critical that we continue to take precautions and encourage friends and family that have not been vaccinated or boosted to do so.

The Bloomfield Health Department and our frontline workers for the past two years have been the definition of heroes and I would be remiss to not once again acknowledge their sacrifices. It is because of you that our children are able to be back in the classroom, our businesses can be open and so many lives can be saved.

We must not let our foot off the pedal in this fight. Together, we will get through this just as we have for the past two years and we will be stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Did you know the Bloomfield Buzz is available online every month?

The printed Buzz that you are holding is sent in January and July, but the best way to learn about events in town during the rest of the year is through the monthly e-newsletter, E-Buzz. Subscribe Online at tinyurl.com/buzz456 or by texting "EBUZZ" to 22828.