Bloomfield Police achieve coveted accreditation

Departmental performance on steady rise

Bloomfield residents filed a whopping 22% fewer complaints about Bloomfield police in 2016 than in 2015. At the same time, arrests increased by 200%, and “part one” crimes (the most serious) reduced by 28%.

Together, those percentages point to a remarkable surge in police professionalism — not surprising given that, in November, the Bloomfield Police Department earned a three-year accreditation from the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police.

The achievement means Bloomfield’s police personnel are now complying with 105 professional standards in administration, personnel, operations, investigations and prisoner handling.

“I love this system,” said Patrolman Jonathan Donker, a 15-year department veteran. “There’s a policy on everything… like body cameras… when to use them, when we can’t have them on. I feel safer and our citizens are safer because we have these policies to refer to at any time. There are written policies about everything and they’re clean, organized and easy to understand. We can even access them from home.”

Accreditation has been a two-year quest led by Police Director Samuel DeMaio, who launched the effort upon his appointment as director in November 2014.

“This is not just something accomplished on paper,” said DeMaio. “It’s a new philosophy of policing, and it’s impressed on everyone from command staff to the newest officers.”

DeMaio said the accreditation process has fundamentally changed the way the department operates. “We run like a business,” he said, “but the end result is not about profit, it’s about citizen satisfaction and crime reduction.”

The Bloomfield Police Department is one of 172 New Jersey law enforcement agencies (34%) that have achieved accreditation, according to Harry Delgado, accreditation program manager for the NJ Chiefs of Police. The Chiefs are the only accrediting organization in the state.

The new standards affect 125 sworn officers and 50 civilian employees. One of those is Lt. Michael Sisco, a day shift patrol commander with 21 years in the department. Sisco says accreditation has brought major change. “People are complying with the policies. There’s more professionalism on the street because everyone has a clear understanding of all their responsibilities.”

DeMaio said the idea of accreditation standards was intimidating to many veteran officers on the force when he introduced it. Dozens of them retired on hearing news of the plan. In their departing wake, younger officers have been recruited.

“It’s much easier to incorporate higher standards in new officers” than to try and change the thinking of resistant officers, said DeMaio.

Anthony Dezenzo, a special assistant to DeMaio, was the man charged with guiding the accreditation process. That meant providing proof of compliance in 105 best practices in New Jersey law enforcement.

“We produced about 460 proofs of compliance,” he said.

The ongoing task will be to maintain the accreditation beyond the initial three-year award. Annual accreditation maintenance reports are required each year; and Dezenzo will continue oversight of that process.

Delgado said the exception would be for an agency to let it lapse. “An agency that makes such a commitment to excellence in policing is well served to maintain it as they are not only accountable to the standards but to the public they so proudly serve.”

One new face among elected town officials

Ted Gamble is the newest face on the Bloomfield Township Council following the Nov. 8 general election. Mayor Michael Venezia was voted into a second term and two incumbents were re-elected as council members at large: Wartyna “Nina” Davis, and Carlos Pomares.

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9  Save your January - July 2017 recycling/garbage pick-up schedule
10  Take advantage of 14 free or low-cost health screenings
Peace of mind IS possible in funeral planning.

It’s a matter of PREplanning:

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Making a Difference through Family & Community

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Daniel Bitecola, III, Manager, CPC (NJ Lic No. 4814)
973-338-5900
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Commuter lots full; wait list available

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Get your groove back! Join the Civic Band

Brass, woodwind and percussion players are needed for the Bloomfield Civic Band. Township residence is not required and there’s no audition.

Current players include music professionals and enthusiastic amateurs. Monday rehearsals are from 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., September through June, at Bloomfield Middle School.

The band performs in April, October and December at the middle school, and in four outdoor performances on the Town Green in July. Programs include everything from classical to contemporary.

First-year membership is free; $50 per year thereafter. To learn more, contact Lois De Julio at ldejulio@comcast.net or (973) 338-1646.

Town Council Meetings

All meetings are at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 9 – conference meeting
Jan. 23 – regular meeting
Feb. 13 – conference meeting
Feb. 27 – regular meeting
March 13 – conference meeting
March 27 – regular meeting

April 3 – conference meeting
April 24 – regular meeting
May 8 – conference meeting
May 22 – regular meeting
June 12 – conference meeting
June 26 – regular meeting

Regular Meetings: Council Chambers, Municipal Bldg., 2nd floor
Conference Meetings: Law Enforcement Bldg., Room 205
Questions: twpclerk@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or (973) 680-4015

Primary Election Vote Deadlines

Tuesday, June 6 will be primary election day. Related voter deadlines will be:

- April 3 - Last day to file petitions for June primary (1st, 2nd, 3rd ward council candidates)
- April 12 - Last day for party declaration.
- May 16 – Last day for new registrations, address transfers.
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Give Chester a forever home

Chester, a three-year-old terrier mix, is a long-term resident of the Bloomfield Animal Shelter. He was found as a stray last March. For months, shelter staff and volunteers wondered how such a friendly, obedient, and well-trained dog could be homeless.

Then, in the summer, Chester’s former owner spotted his lost dog on Facebook. He visited Chester a few times but decided current circumstances would prevent him from taking the dog back home. Those visits sent Chester into a tailspin of depression each time his former owner left without him. Chester is still left waiting and wondering.

“He is a family dog that needs to be part of a family to be happy,” said the shelter’s volunteer coordinator, Jaclyn Mendyk. He had lived with another dog and a child.

In the shelter, Chester is deteriorating. He’s losing his happy demeanor. To cheer him up, volunteers and staff have been bringing him into a room where he can sit on a couch and play with toys as if he were in a home. Doing so brings him back to his old self.

“With proper introductions and a responsible owner and family, Chester will make a great family pet,” said Mendyk. “He needs a permanent home with no fear of abandonment.”

To meet Chester, come to the shelter at 61 Bukowski Place. Daily adoption hours are noon to 5 p.m., or Wednesday until 6:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 748-0194, or e-mail adoptatbas@yahoo.com.
Events are subject to change without notice and more programs are added all the time. Check the website for updates.

- **Holiday Closures**
  - New Year’s Day – Monday, Jan. 2
  - MLK Day – Monday, Jan. 16
  - President’s Day – Monday, Feb. 20 (closing at 4 p.m.)
  - Good Friday – April 14
  - Memorial Day – Saturday, May 27 and Monday, May 29
  - Independence Day – Tuesday, July 4

- **Online Resources**
  The library’s online services are open 24/7. Stream movies and TV shows, comics and graphic novels through Hoopla. Borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks on your computer or smartphone. Read digital magazines on Zinio. Or access World Book Online, or Salem databases for history and science study.

- **Continuing Programs**
  - Monday and Thursday movies - 12:15 p.m.
  - Book Club – one Monday per month at 6:45 p.m. Call for topic and date.
  - Financial Book Club and Workshops — second Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Beginners welcome.
  - Stock Market Club – One Wednesday per month, 6 p.m.
  - Bridge Club – Fridays at noon.
  - Computer Classes – Learn computer basics, online searching and e-mail usage. Library card-holders only. Call if you're interested in teaching a class.

- **Children’s Programs**
  **Library story times** are offered year-round. Admission is free. All programs begin at 11 a.m.
  - Tuesdays and Fridays - Toddlers with craft (1-1/2 to 3 years).
  - Wednesdays - Preschool with craft (3-5 years).
  - Thursdays - Baby & Me (up to 18 months). No craft.

**School Break Special Events** are held throughout the school year. Check the library website for timely details.

- **Student Tutoring** is available for grades K-6. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 4 to 6 p.m. and Fridays 4 to 5 p.m. Children ages 9 and under MUST be accompanied by an adult (not dropped off). Tutor schedules vary; call the library before arriving.

- **Special Olympics New Jersey, Young Athletes**, for children ages 2 to 7, is offered on select Saturday mornings. Registration through Special Olympics is mandatory. Visit www.sonj.org and click on “programs.”

- **Children’s Artistic Talents** are showcased in the library. Each month, a different district elementary school is featured.

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Bloomfield Recreation Department

SIGN UP NOW!!

Winter Fitness & Arts

Pre-registration is required for all winter programs. In-person reg-
istration takes place Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
plus Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Or sign up online at www.
bloomfieldrecreation.org. (Now accepting Visa and MasterCard.)
The Recreation Department website lists class details, dates and
times.

Adult Fitness
Age 18 and older
• Pilates
• Spartan Group X (high-
intensity interval training)
• Yoga
• Zumba
• Men’s Basketball League

Children’s Classes
• Karate - ages 5 and older
• Ballet and Tap - ages 6-12
• Intro to Improvisation -
Grades 1-3
• Baton - Pre-K and older, with

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For details, call John Baltz, (973) 725-4485
about Bloomfield Recreation events and sign-ups

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Spring, Summer Leagues

Bloomfield Soccer Club

Bloomfield American Little League Baseball
Registration is Jan. 6, 10, 13 from 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, Co-ed, ages 5-12. For residents in the Fairview, Berkeley, West Essex and Carteret school
neighborhoods. For details, contact League President Gerard Piscenzo at (973) 886-2761 or bloomfieldamericabaseball@yahoo.com.

Bloomfield National Little League Baseball
Registration is Jan. 20, from 6-9 p.m., and Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Middlesex Co-op, ages 5-12. For residents in the Franklin, Stewart, Brookdale and Oakview school neighborhoods. Contact Steve Pecor; pecorlbloom-
field@gmail.com.

Bloomfield Senior Babe Ruth Baseball
Registration is Jan. 14, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Civic Center. Co-ed, ages 13-16. Spring, fall and summer leagues, plus summer league for ages 16-18. Cost: $25 for in-town players, $50 for out-of-town players. (Fee includes hat, shirt and socks.) Details at (973) 743-4440, or www.bloomfield-
babetheruthbaseball@gmail.com.

Group Excursions

Bloomfield Recreation offers three fun-filled excursions to special events at Prudential Center in Newark this winter. Ticket sales are under way. To sign up, go to www.bloomfieldrecreation.org.

• Monster Jam ™ Triple Threat Series
Saturday, Jan. 28 at Prudential Center in Newark. See seven competitions in three vehicle categories: trucks, speedsters and ATVs. Tickets are $35, including bus transportation to and from Newark. Meet at the Civic Center at 11 a.m. for departure at 11:30 a.m. Showtime is 1 p.m.

• The Harlem Globetrotters
Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. Witness ball handling wizardry and one-of-a-kind family entertainment. Join Bloomfield Recreation and Globetrotter stars for a group photo at half time. Tickets, $40. Transportation not included.

• NJ Devils vs. TC Hurricane
Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m. Tickets, $40. Transportation not included.

Upcoming Events (details to come)

Little League Opening Day - Saturday, April 22
Softball Opening Day - Sunday, April 23
Bloomfield Family Night, May 5 - Celebrate “National No Homework Day” and “Bloomfield Family Night.”
No homework, no sports practice, no media devices. Just quality time together. Town-wide family activities in the works.

Town Paints, the annual Bloomfield Art League exhibit on the Town Green, is May 13.

Memorial Day Parade - May 29
July 4th Celebration & Fireworks Spectacular
Movies in the Park – coming this spring.

Senior Citizen Fitness Programs

• Senioricize - Monday to Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. New class each day. Tune in to channel 35, or Vinton Fios, use channel 30.
• Tai Chi – Mondays, Jan. 9 to March 27, 11 a.m. to noon. Learn a Chinese form of martial art featuring slow, controlled and low-impact movements. Easy for seniors, even those with limited movement. Pre-registration required. Fee: $20. (No classes
Jan. 16 and Feb. 20)
• Zumba Gold – Wednesdays, Jan. 11 to March 15, 10 to 11 a.m. Dance and move to Latin music. No dance experience or partner needed. For active older adults including some with limited mobility. Pre-registration required. Fee: $20.
• Senior Exercise - Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 10 to March 16, 10-11 a.m. Work with weights, elastic bands and light-weight balls. Pre-registration required. Fee: $20.

Bloomfield Art League winter classes will be held at the Civic Center, starting the week of Jan. 2 and continuing through Feb. 23. Spring classes will run from mid-March into May. Summer classes will be announced. Classes are open to those 14 and older. Instructors are professional artists. Class choices include drawing, watercolor and “All Art.” For information on classes and art league membership packages, contact Destiny Sampson at dsampson@bloomfieldrecreation.org or visit the Recreation Department website, www.bloomfieldrecreation.org (click the Art League tab).

Bloomfield Camera Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bloomfield Civic Center. People of all experience levels are welcome. Bring your camera and owner’s manual and learn about portrait, sports and wedding pho-
tography as well as everyday shots. Participants will learn to use their cameras to their full potential. For information, e-mail otisdsullivan@verizon.net, or call the Civic Center at (973) 743-9074.

Enjoy the little things in life
You May Need to Move Your Car

Below are rules for efficient snow removal on municipal streets.

1. If you live on a snow emergency street (see list), you are obligated to move your car once the street becomes snow covered.

2. Homeowners with driveways should remove vehicles from the street until plowing is finished.

3. Those without driveways can park in the following lots, after they are plowed:
   - School playgrounds (not in faculty lots).
   - Recreation Department parking lots: Felton Field (Floyd Avenue), Pulaski Park (Mt. Vernon Avenue), Upper Memorial Park (Division Street), Clarks Pond South (Hobson Street) or Wrights Field (Baldwin Place).

4. Major roadways will be plowed first for emergency access, then secondary arteries. All streets will be plowed.

5. Do not shovel snow back into streets when clearing driveways.

Snow Removal Tips

- Remove vehicles from the street to improve plowing.
- Parking on your frozen lawn in snow emergencies won’t hurt it.
- Leave the last three feet of your driveway (the apron) covered with snow until the plow comes; avoid shoveling twice.
- If you must clear the apron quickly, pile snow on the left side (facing your home) to reduce plow-back into your driveway.

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### 2017 Curbside Recycling

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**Recycling FYI**

**Christmas Trees** will be picked up on your recycling day.

**Saturday Recycling Hours** - The Public Works Yard is open for recycling every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No garbage or bulk drop off occurs during that time. Bring only mixed paper, commingled items and electronics to 230 Grove St.

**Electronics** can be brought to 230 Grove Street on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Not Accepted in Regular Garbage or Recycling:**
- Car/truck tires
- Electronics
- Construction debris

**Not Accepted in Recycling:**
- Rigid Plastic
- Molded Lawn Chairs
- Buckets
- Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, packing materials)
- Plastic bags (shopping bags, bubble and shrink wrap)
- Auto Glass, (window glass, light bulbs, mirrors)
- Pyrex, ceramic cups/plates, clay bottles/pots, six pack beverage holders

**Household Hazardous Waste Day**, Saturday, May 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fleet maintenance garage, 125 Fairview Avenue, Cedar Grove (next to the old hospital center). Bring your driver's license as proof of county residency. For details, call (973) 792-9060.

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**Special Events**

**Big Truck Day / North End Electronic Recycling Day**, Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to noon at Brookdale Christian Church, 1350 Broad Street. Big trucks used by DPW will be available for children to interact with and climb inside.

**Paper Shredding Day**, Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to noon. For residents only, at the Board of Education parking lot, 155 Broad Street.

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**Metal Pickup**

**What you should know**

Metals and appliances (not electronics) are picked up every Tuesday. Call the Department of Public Works, (973) 680-4127, no later than 3 p.m. Monday for a scheduled Tuesday pickup.

- Accepted metal items include bed frames, metal curtain rods, metal hangers and loose metal pieces. Metal swing sets must be disassembled.
- Accepted appliances include refrigerators, stoves, microwaves and air conditioners. Remove any appliance doors and place items door side up for pickup.
- Metal paint cans are considered bulk waste. They are picked up on your second weekly garbage day (latex paint only, completely dried out).
- If you're unsure whether an item is metal, call DPW.

**Not Accepted in Recycling:**
- Metals and appliances (not electronics)
- Construction debris

**Not Accepted in Regular Garbage or Recycling:**
- Glass (drink, wine, beer bottles)
- Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, packing materials)
- Plastic bags (shopping bags, bubble and shrink wrap)
- Auto Glass, (window glass, light bulbs, mirrors)
- Pyrex, ceramic cups/plates, clay bottles/pots, six pack beverage holders
Upcoming Health Screenings

(973) 680-4058 • www.bloomfieldtownnj.com/health/public-health-nursing

Unless specifically noted, all screenings are conducted at the Public Health Nursing Office, #1 Municipal Plaza, lower level. Appointments are required unless otherwise indicated.

◆ Blood Pressure (all free)
  • First Thursday, every month; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Town Hall.
  • Third Friday of every month; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Civic Center.
  • Second Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. to noon, at Brookdale ShopRite.

◆ Cardiac Screening - May 23, 10 a.m. to noon. Includes a physician assessment. Cost: $30.

◆ Diabetes Screening – Fourth Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. to noon, at Brookdale ShopRite. Free.

◆ Osteoporosis (Bone Density) – For men and women, via ultrasound of the wrist. Cost: $12. April 24, 10 a.m. to noon.

◆ Pap Smear, Mammography – For women over 40, uninsured, who meet financial guidelines. Free. No Medicare accepted. March 16 and June 15, starting at 8:30 a.m.

◆ Prostate Screening - PSA blood test and digital rectal exam, for men ages 50 to 75. Free. April 20, 10 a.m. to noon.

◆ Urinalysis Screening – June 2, 10 to 11 a.m. Cost: $10.

◆ Stroke Screening – May 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Includes physician assessment of cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and carotid. Cost: $30.

◆ Lipid Panel Profile – June 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. Includes total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides. $20.

◆ Blood Screening – April 25, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Options include: health panel (blood chemistry, CBC, lipid panel, T4), $35; PSA, $35; health panel and PSA, $50. Other available blood tests include thyroid panel, blood type and Rh factor, CRP, vitamin D 25 and hemoglobin A1c. Call for costs.

◆ Tuberculin Skin Test (PPD, Mantoux, TST) - $20 – Call for details.

◆ Adult Vaccine Program – Protect yourself against vaccine-preventable diseases. For adults age 19 and older, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for information and eligibility.

◆ Well Child Program – Age 2 months to 18 years. Assessments conducted most Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Includes vaccines, lead screening, autism screening, growth and development assessment, and post-partum depression screening. Call for details and eligibility.

◆ File of Life Program – Get a free wallet insert and a refrigerator magnet to inform emergency personnel about your vital information in time of need. Includes emergency contacts, health care provider names/numbers, medications, allergies, insurance, medical conditions, health proxy, advance directives, and blood type.

Senior Extravaganza returns this spring!

There’s no date yet, but sign-ups are in progress for the popular Senior Extravaganza, the social event of the spring season for Bloomfield residents age 60 and older. Participants will enjoy an afternoon of dining, meeting new friends, listening to age-specific tunes, and dancing — all at no cost. Free transportation will be provided for those who need it.

Bloomfield College Nursing students will once again sponsor the event in collaboration with the Neighbor to Neighbor Network, Bloomfield College, the Bloomfield Recreation Department and the Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services.

Spots are limited and registration has begun. To sign up, call Human Services at (973) 680-4017 by March 15.

Free school supplies and clothes

May 8 will be the deadline to apply for the Back 2 School Store for children entering grades K to 5 in fall 2017. Eligible children will get new, cost-free clothing and supplies to begin the school year. The July 30 event at Temple B’nai Shalom in West Orange is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section.

At the Back 2 School Store, each child will be escorted by a volunteer personal shopper who will help the child select a jacket, shirt, pants, sneakers, underwear, socks, hat, scarf, and gloves, plus a backpack filled with school supplies and personal care items — all new. While the children shop, parents (who must attend) will gather information on community resources, adult health care, and career and educational opportunities.

To qualify, families must be eligible for food stamps, a food pantry, or a free/reduced-cost school lunch program.

Applications will be accepted at Bloomfield Human Services, 1 Municipal Plaza, Room 213. For details, call (973) 680-4017.

No need to suffer without food, rent or utilities

Bloomfield Health offers free benefits screenings to low-income individuals and families to determine their eligibility for food programs, utilities assistance, prescription assistance, and limited rental/mortgage assistance. For homebound seniors and disabled residents, screenings can be provided in the home. Learn more at (973) 680-4017.

Screenings are also conducted on the Essex County Mobile Welfare Van, parked outside the municipal building once a month. For an appointment, call (973) 680-4017.

Be a friendly visitor to a neighbor in need

Senior citizens and people with disabilities can get friendly in-home conversation and help with routine errands like...
grocery shopping through the Friendly Visitor Program (part of the Neighbor to Neighbor Network). If you or someone you know could use this free assistance, call (973) 680-4017. Or, to volunteer as a friendly visitor, call the volunteer liaison at the same number.

Get affordable dental care on the Zufall van

An initial $40 check-up is available on The Zufall Delta Dental Van to individuals on Medicaid / NJ Family Care or those with no dental insurance. On Thursday, Jan. 26, the van will be at Bloomfield Town Hall for the first time. Qualified residents can get general exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions and X-rays, followed by more involved procedures when the van returns to town. For an initial appointment, call Adeola at (973) 328-9100, x286.

Health insurance decisions are now easier

Understanding health insurance options can be a challenge, but help is available. Bloomfield Health has a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor who provides free, confidential help to Bloomfield and Glen Ridge Medicare beneficiaries or soon-to-be beneficiaries. Get help with Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Part D, or long-term care insurance.

The counselor also helps with Affordable Care Act applications or the state Medicaid program, NJ Family Care.

Counselors do not offer legal advice, and they do not endorse particular insurance plans. They help people make informed decisions. For information, call (973) 680-4017.

One-time housing assistance available

Has a financial setback left you temporarily behind on rent, mortgage and/or utility payments? You may be eligible for a one-time assist from a county homelessness prevention grant. The program is available to Bloomfield residents who have the financial resources to resume regular payments after a one-time assist. Those not able to manage future payments are not eligible. To learn more, call for an appointment with Bloomfield Human Services at (973) 680-4017. Or schedule with the Essex County mobile welfare van, which visits Bloomfield once a month.

C’mon, be a shovel hero!

Wielding a shovel is tough for many seniors and handicapped individuals. You can help prevent falls and free people from snowed-in homes by volunteering to clear one or two pathways after heavy snowfalls. To join the Bloomfield Human Services shovel crew, call (973) 680-4017.

Food handlers: Get the training you need

All food-handlers working in Bloomfield are required by the Board of Health to complete a two-hour basic food-handler training course. Upcoming classes will be offered Jan. 21, March 23, May 18, and Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in room 111 of the Bloomfield Health Department. The course costs $20 and pre-registration is required. For details, call (973) 680-4024.

Tax filing assistance offered for modest income families

Free, electronic tax filing assistance will be available this winter to families with an annual income of less than $65,000. NJ Citizen Action will partner with Bloomfield Human Services and Bloomfield Library during tax season. NJ Citizen Action’s tax preparers will be at the library on Wednesdays throughout February and March, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Families must have an appointment. To schedule, call (732) 246-4772.

Clean hands (and how!) in local restaurants

If you dine out frequently, or even infrequently, you may be interested to know that a rigorous hand-washing policy has been established for your safety by the Bloomfield Board of Health.

Restaurant employees don’t just squat, rub and rinse. There are five steps for effective hand washing. In case you’re curious, here’s a summary:

Hand washing must last at least 20 seconds. The washing must include any exposed portions of the arm. Washers must “rub vigorously” for 10 to 15 seconds, paying special attention to dirt under fingernails. The other 5 to 10 seconds is for rinsing and drying. Disposable paper towels or air hand dryers are required.

The “when” of hand washing adds more rigor, for example: before work, twice after using the bathroom (once in the bathroom sink, and again in the kitchen sink), before donning disposable gloves, when switching tasks (such as between frying chicken and slicing tomatoes), or after touching one’s hair or nose.

Of course, the obvious hand-washing times also apply: after handling garbage, raw meat, a cigarette, or a person’s own meal.

The hand-washing policy is aimed at reducing illness and spread of disease among employees and customers. To see all the particulars, check the policy posted on the township website, under Health Department.

Get historical in 2017

Do you enjoy local history? Start your new year right by joining the Historical Society of Bloomfield. Meet similarly-minded neighbors, enjoy walking tours, bus tours, cemetery tours, ice cream socials and local history presentations. An award-winning newsletter is included with membership. Dues are tax deductible. Go to www.hsob.org to download a membership form. For meeting dates and other information, call (973) 743-8844 or e-mail info@hsob.org.