

Free COVID-19 Testing Available to All Bloomfield Residents Beginning June 4



The Bloomfield Health Department is offering free COVID-19 tests to residents starting June 4. Testing will be done on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am-2:00pm at varying locations.

“As the state and our township slowly begin to reopen, it is imperative that our residents are able to be tested for COVID-19,” **said Mayor Michael Venezia.** “We want to continue to flatten the curve and keep the virus from spreading in our community and the only way to accomplish this is to have testing readily available. Thanks to our outstanding Health Department, any resident that wants to be tested will be able to do so at no cost to them.”

Testing will only be open to Bloomfield residents and an appointment must be made with the Bloomfield Health Department by calling 973-680-4057. The first two testing sites will be Vasser Field on June 4 and the Watsessing School parking lot on June 9.

Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs



Classic Car Coloring Contest

For the last decade classic, exotic and collector cars have arrived in the heart of Bloomfield Center every Wednesday night starting in June. Broad Street would be lined from Liberty St. to Bloomfield Ave.

with car enthusiasts and their shiny rides. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the start of the Bloomfield Center Alliance's Cruise Nights will be postponed.

In response to the delay, the Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department is teaming up with the Bloomfield Center Alliance and the Bloomfield Cruisers to offer a Classic Car Coloring Contest starting Wednesday, June 3. Each week these three organizations will announce the weekly contest on their respective Facebook pages and are requesting interested participants to email recreation@bloomfieldwpnj.com for a black and white coloring sheet to be emailed to them for download. The Parks Department has a wide variety of black and white coloring sheets of classic cars, exotics and even beat up pickup trucks in junk yards! Let them know what you like and they will try to accommodate your

request as best they can!

Participants should reply by the following Tuesday by 5:00pm with their artwork, name and age to all three organization's posts on social media. Each organization will select their "Best in Show" winner on Wednesday night and award the winners with a gift card to a local restaurant or store in town. It's a great way for everyone to stay engaged, get their creative juices flowing and have a virtual car show. This contest is a fantastic way to support local restaurants and businesses in their time of need by infusing some money back into the local economy. Please follow [Bloomfield Recreation...NotJustSports](#), [Bloomfield Center Alliance](#) and the [Bloomfield Cruisers](#) on Facebook for more details.

Status Of Municipal Parks

As the Governor gradually modifies the COVID-19 guidelines, the Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department is working with several township departments to ensure a safe reopening of active recreational areas within the municipal park system. The physical, social and emotional well-being of residents is of the utmost concern and the township is working tirelessly to put policies and procedures in place to allow residents to once again utilize Bloomfield's extraordinary parks. The township is planning a 30 day trial period for its 10 tennis courts starting on Monday, June 8th starting at noon. Social distancing rules will be in effect along with modified playing rules. If the reopening of the tennis courts goes well, the township will work to reopen other areas of the parks. Please visit www.bloomfieldrecreation.org for exact details and park rule modifications and follow the Parks Department on [Facebook](#).

Summer Camp and Sports Clinics

With Governor Murphy's recent executive order allowing recreational summer camps to begin the second week of July, the Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department is currently reviewing the guidelines set forth by the Department of Children & Families, Centers for Disease Control and the NJ Department of Health. Once there is a clear picture of the protocols and policies that are required to offer a safe environment for our participants, the Parks Department will explore every option in an attempt to provide recreational opportunities to children over the summer months. Please know that even if in person camps, virtual camps or a combination of both occur, there will have to be a limit of the total number of participants, in order to comply with the social distancing guidelines set forth in the executive orders. While a final determination to date has yet to be made, work is being done to finalize summer offerings while providing ample notice.

Drive-In Movie Series

The Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department is working on a Drive-In Movie Series for residents in the coming months. The department is working with state and local officials, in addition to following guidelines from the CDC to create a safe and enjoyable experience for the community. Input from residents has been requested to learn what movies people would like to see shown on the 25' blow up screen and surround sound system. A list has been

compiled of available movies and websites. The Parks Department wants your feedback. Don't see a movie that you think would be great on the big screen? Please utilize the open ended question at the conclusion of the survey. Exact details will be given on these events once all details are finalized. The Parks Department looks forward to providing a safe and enjoyable drive-in movie experience and hopes to see residents at the shows soon!

<https://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/FormCenter/Parks-Recreation-5/Drivein-Movie-Survey-60>

Free Virtual Programming Series

The series which began on May 22 and will continue through the month of June, allows residents to participate in a wide variety of classes within their home or in their yard!

Some of the classes that will be offered will include: Zumba Gold, Zumba Kids, Zumba, Cabin Fever Fitness, Children's Art, Yoga, Dance, Family Yoga, Pilates and Kids Yoga. While these classes are free, you must pre-register by going to www.bloomfieldrecreation.org.

The BPRCA's newest addition to the virtual programming series is a Pilates Infused Gut & Glutes class! In this class the instructor will focus on working the entire core including all the ab muscles and glutes including typical Pilates exercises. Having a strong core improves your posture, benefits your spine health and your balance. For this class, participants will need a mat and if possible light weights and a yoga block.

Disclaimer: You must have the ZOOM App to participate in the virtual programs. In order to participate in a class you must be registered at least 2 hours prior to the start of class to allow our staff time to create rosters. An email will be emailed to you with the link and password. Please sign on 15 minutes before the start of the class to allow the instructor to recognize you and move you from the "waiting room" to the actual class which will start promptly at the advertised time. If you miss the first class you can still register and attend the following class. If you miss two classes you will be removed from the class to allow other people to participate. All classes have limited enrollment and spots are on a first come first served basis.



Bloomfield Public Library Continues to Serve Community in Crisis

Despite the ongoing crisis, Bloomfield Public Library staff are hard at work, striving to keep the public entertained and informed. Access to databases (Rosetta Stone, Ancestry, HeritageQuest, Ebscohost, etc) is available 24/7 for reliable information. Download free eBooks, eAudiobooks,



eMagazines. Find a curated list of online activities for adults and children by going to www.bplnj.org. Join the Facebook group discussion: Staying Sane With Books. Librarians are standing by to assist residents with reference questions which can be sent to Reference@bplnj.org or use the chat box on the library website.

Children's library staff are providing video story times and crafts on the [Facebook page](#). Ruby, the library bunny, wants to see what her friends are up to at home. Send photos of your story times, crafts and walks to Ruby@bplnj.org. Ruby would love to hear from you, your kids and your pets. Tell her when your birthday is and watch Miss Chery's story time videos for a special mention.

Join the library for special events and watch the Facebook page for more information:

June 13, 11:00am: Motown in the Morning. Email LCohn@bplnj.org to register and receive Zoom login information.

June 30, 2:00pm: ScienceTellers Summer Reading Program Virtual Kickoff, Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress

Community Comes Together to Save Butterflies



Monarch butterflies are in trouble due to loss of habitat and the fact that they lay eggs only on milkweed plants, which is the only food that monarch caterpillars eat. Former Environmental Commission member Susan Moseson discovered a large stand of common milkweed last summer at the soon-to-be-redeveloped Peerless Tube site on Locust Street. She began a process that summer that came to include the developer and at least three township groups in trying to save the plants.

Environmental Commission Chairman Oliver Young contacted site owner and developer Eduardo Dutra, President of AARK Companies. After touring the site with Young and Moseson, Dutra gave permission to relocate the plants and said he would make sure his workers did not disturb them as site work proceeded over the winter. As of late May, nearly 150 common milkweed plants had been transplanted with the help of Environmental Commission members, the Community Gardens Committee and the Morris Canal Greenway Committee. Special thanks to Eduardo Dutra of the AARK Companies, Councilman Rich Rockwell and Peggy Healy of the Community Gardens Committee for helping preserve this resource and help threatened monarch butterflies.

Local Food Pantries Calendar



Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday and Thursday
11:00am-1:00pm
12 Park St, Bloomfield, NJ
back parking lot

Mobile Food Pantry - Carteret School
Friday
5:00pm-6:00pm

Carteret School, 158 Grove St, Bloomfield
Entrance around back on La France Ave.

Mobile Food Pantry - Heritage Village

Thursdays

1:00pm

390 Franklin St, Bloomfield, community room

ONLY for Heritage residents

Presbyterian Church (Church On the Green)

Wednesday-Friday and fourth Saturday of month

9:30am- 11:00am

Church is located at 147 Broad St, Bloomfield but the pantry is around the side of the church- 2 Church St

New Light Baptist Church

3rd Monday of Month

1:00pm-3:00pm

89 Dewey St, Bloomfield, NJ

Temple Radiant Light Church

Call 973-748-0090

Call for pickup

Montclair Human Needs Food Pantry

Tuesday and Thursday

12:30 pm-2:30pm

9 Label St, Montclair NJ

Recycling Depot Reopens



On Saturday, May 16, the Department of Public Works and Park Maintenance Recycling Depot located at 230 Grove Street reopened to the public from 9:00am to 1:00pm. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. The Recycling Depot is now open every Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm for Bloomfield residents to dispose of household recycling, electronics and small household appliances. If you have any questions please call the office at 973-680-4127. Follow the DPW on **Facebook** for the most up to date information!



Bloomfield Health Department Taking on Rodents

The Bloomfield Health Department staff is continuing rodent control efforts throughout the township. The Rodent Control Program was created to educate and inform the public about the potential health hazards and minimize exposure to rats. In Bloomfield, a three

pronged approach has been taken to address the issue: canvassing neighborhoods, performing environmental assessments and investigating rodent complaints.

Public health investigators look into complaints and survey commercial and

residential properties throughout the township for rodent activity. In an effort to minimize rodent issues and complaints throughout the township, the Health Department will be concentrating on improper storage of garbage/refuse that provides a food source for rodents, insects and vermin. It is recommended that residents keep garbage tightly covered in cans. Other areas of concern are stagnant water, high grass/weeds, excessive branch clippings and miscellaneous debris. While canvassing neighborhoods, doors hangers will be posted on residential and/or commercial properties which include helpful rodent prevention information. The health officials would like to remind residents that rodent control efforts and investigation of complaints take place all year long but efforts are elevated during warmer months when rodent's activity is increased. Restaurants shutting during the coronavirus pandemic have led to a shortage of waste, causing rats to search for food. Residents and business owners can fend off unwelcome intruders by securing their homes and buildings, getting rid of trash, debris, vegetation, and maintaining their property. Due to the ongoing rodent control measures in Bloomfield, there has been a reduction in complaints over the last few years.

Please note if any of these conditions are found, you may be considered in violation of the Township of Bloomfield Code, Chapter 658, and Environmental Quality Assurance and issued a violation notice or court summons. The goal is to educate the public on the importance of keeping properties clean and regularly maintained to avoid attracting rodents, insects and vermin. For more information check the Township of Bloomfield website at <https://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/1482/Rodent-Campaign>.

If you observe rodent activity on or around your property (rodent burrows, nest, droppings, teeth marks on wood) or have any concerns or questions, please contact the Bloomfield Health Department at 973-680-4024.

Community Bulletin

- **Non-Essential Retail Open for Curbside Pickup**

Following an executive order from Governor Murphy allowing for non-essential retail establishments to do curbside pickup, Bloomfield has taken steps to facilitate the process. 15 minute parking rules have been put in place in all areas where businesses are located to help the small businesses in the community. Businesses that open for curbside pickup have still had to abide by all social distancing rules previously established as a result of COVID-19.

- **Mayor Venezia, the Town Council and Faith Leaders Hold Virtual Vigil**

Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia, members of the Town Council and community faith leaders held a virtual vigil on Saturday May 30 in honor of George Floyd. The event was open to the public and was meant to bring the community together for a time of healing. The event was attended by over 2,000 people.

- **Mayor Venezia and Congressman Payne Hold Virtual Town Hall**

Mayor Michael Venezia and Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr. held a virtual town hall on Thursday, May 28. During the town hall, Congressman Payne explained what he was doing for his constituents during this time of crisis. He provided an updated on what the federal government has done and what can be expected in coming weeks.

- **Council Meetings and Voting**

Due to the current state of emergency and public health emergency declared by Governor Murphy and in an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19, the June 8th council conference meeting and June 22nd regular council meeting will be closed to the public.

These Township Council meetings will be streamed live on Channel 35, (Comcast), and Channel 30 (Verizon), YouTube or Facebook Live beginning at 7pm.

A link for the live stream will be posted on the township website, www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com. The public always has an opportunity to make public comment to the Mayor and Council during public meetings. However, with this new format if you have a comment or a question, please submit it to the Township Clerk at twpclerk@bloomfieldtwpnj.com.

The Township Clerk will read on the record your question or comment during the public comment portion of the meeting. You should submit your name, address and state your question or comment. Submissions will be accepted until 6:45pm on the date of the meeting.

- **Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution**

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution were approved by the Governing Body of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, on May 18, 2020.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held virtually on the application Zoom and streamed live via the Township website and WBMA-TV Channels 30 and 35, June 22, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at which time and place discussions to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the Year 2020 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons via a conference call line 425-436-6348, Access Code 277839#.

Copies of the Budget are available on the Township website and by request from the Municipal Clerk's Office by emailing twpclerk@bloomfieldtwpnj.com

E-Buzz Editor: Grant Ludmer | 201-864-0600 | grant@vmmi.net

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