

A Letter from Mayor Venezia on Bloomfield's Response to the Global Pandemic



Since March, we all have been navigating our new work and home life so that our families remain safe and healthy. The global pandemic and restrictions ordered by the state and federal governments has brought unparalleled changes to the way we live our lives. The Township of Bloomfield, as a government and employer, moved quickly to keep our residents and employees safe while maintaining our operations as best as possible.

In March, we had to close our municipal offices and operate as best we could through remote working. We revised our operations for our emergency personnel that limited their exposure and allowed us to maintain a high level of public safety and response. During the height of the pandemic in April, we saw daily numbers of sick and yes, dying residents that personally saddened me like never before.

We pushed ahead and by May, while the numbers of new cases were falling, we put in place protections and protocols that allowed us to reopen our offices. To this day some municipalities still have not opened their offices. Additionally, in May, we started virtual recreation programs and as soon as we were allowed, my colleagues on the Council established weekly drive in movie nights once a week. Our recreation department continues to offer these programs safely and with success. Most importantly, the township started its own COVID-19 testing. We started with our first testing on June 4th. Since then we have tested over 1,000 of our residents. We will continue this for as long as the demand continues.

For our businesses, as soon as we were allowed, we provided areas for curbside pickup and now if a restaurant chooses, we provide additional space for outdoor dining wherever possible. We expanded the "Dinner under the Stars" program a week so residents have another opportunity to safely enjoy a meal with their family. Your cooperation has been the main reason our number of new cases over the last 3 months has dropped to an average 1 per day.

When you consider that at one time we were seeing as many as 40 cases in a single day, this is a fantastic result. No one knows what the future will hold for us in Bloomfield, New Jersey or the nation. All we can do is remain vigilant with wearing our masks, maintaining social distancing and most importantly, by being patient with our fellow residents during this most difficult time.



Annual Town Fireworks Celebration Canceled Due to COVID-19

Based on the current executive orders that limit gatherings to 500 people, the township has decided to cancel its annual fireworks display. The Independence Day Celebration and fireworks spectacular routinely draws several thousand spectators to Foley Field. In lieu of the celebration and fireworks, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs will shift gears and plan outdoor/drive-in movies which were extremely popular and well received over the summer months.

The department is planning a series of outdoor movies which will include drive-in movies along with movies in the park. Various locations throughout town are being explored along with dates and times. The department hopes to hold six events from mid-September to the end of October.

Pre-registration will be required however, all the events will be free of charge for residents. Social distancing guidelines will be in effect and face coverings are required when social distancing is not possible. More details to follow.

9th Annual Movie Night and Family Camp-Out

As a result of COVID-19, the traditional outdoor movie and overnight campout at Pulaski Park has been canceled. However, all families wishing to campout can still do so in their backyards the night of Friday, September 18 or Saturday, September 19. This free event has always been about spending quality time with family while enjoying the “great outdoors.” So dust off your tents, plan a cook-out and organize some family games. If you have a fire pit, the department will provide s’mores making kits free of charge! You can pre-register via their website at www.bloomfieldrecreation.org starting September 1 through September 16. Contactless pickup or drop-off will be arranged September 17-18. The department asks that everyone post their camping pictures to its [Facebook page](#) the night of the event to see who has the coolest campsite!

Summer Program Survey

As summer has come to a close, Bloomfield’s Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs would like to thank everyone that participated in its programs during these unprecedented times. They hope you enjoyed creating, learning, exercising, and “zooming” with them! They would love to hear about your experience as they prepare for fall programming that best suits the community. Please fill out **this survey**: your opinion matters!

2020 Fall Programming

Partnering with WBMATV, The Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department is pleased to announce its brand-new TV series. Follow along with their skilled instructors on a weekly basis all in the comfort of your own home. Offerings include: Zumba, Fitness, Art, and more! Episodes are currently scheduled for the month of September. This will allow the department time to prepare for its fall program offerings, both in person and virtual, to start in October. Residents can watch on Channel 35 Comcast and Channel 30 Verizon.

Pre-registration for fall programs will go live on Wednesday September 16 and can be accessed at www.bloomfieldrecreation.org.

Senior Citizen Programming

Zumba Gold - \$10
Wednesdays & Fridays @ 10:00am
Classes will be held via the Zoom App.
August 26 – September 25

2020 Girls Volleyball League

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, there will be no Suburban Volleyball League. The Intown League will still be held on Monday and Tuesday evenings at Pulaski Park! Returning Suburban players are encouraged to participate in the Intown League to keep their skills sharp!

Pulaski Park – 24 Mt. Vernon Ave
Registration Fee = \$25.00

All 7th and 8th grade girls are welcome to sign up. The tentative start date for the season is Monday, September 28, where each player will be evaluated and then assigned a team for the proceeding weeks' games. Dates and times of games are subject to the number of teams. Please note that no registrations will be taken the day of. Pre-registration is required!

9/11 Memorial Service

The township invites residents to come to the Town Green between 6:30pm and 7:30pm for Bloomfield's September 11 remembrance ceremony. The ceremony will be held on Friday, September 11 on the Town Green. Attendees will be provided votive candles and luminary bags which may be placed by the September 11 monument in honor of the lives lost that day. There will be a brief ceremony with township officials, friends, family and residents starting at approximately 7:30PM. The candles will remain lit until 9:11pm. This year's event will be adjusted due to COVID-19.

Join the Bloomfield Art League!

The Bloomfield Art League is one of the longest running art organizations in New Jersey. They take pride in serving



The Bloomfield Art League is one of the longest running art organizations in New Jersey. It takes pride in serving the Bloomfield community and neighboring towns by promoting and stimulating interest in art. The organization is sponsored by the Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department and traditionally holds classes, lectures and demonstrations throughout the year.

Membership is \$25 and includes:

*\$5 off art classes, demonstrations by award winning artists, juried exhibitions, 10% discount at Jerry's Artist Outlet, community events & celebrations
Adult & Junior Art League memberships are available!*

You can register for membership or demos online at www.bloomfieldrecreation.org, or by phone (973)743-9074 | For more info contact: culturalaffairs@bloomfieldwpnj.com

Upcoming Demos

You do not need to be an Art League member to participate in demos, but Members can sign up for FREE. Pre-registration is required.



Printmaking on Clothing - \$25

Saturday, September 5th
2:00PM - 5:00PM
Ages 14 and up
In-Person - Civic Center
84 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
All supplies included.

Shirt included, or you can bring your own shirt/item.



Ceramics Lessons - \$25

Saturday, Sept. 19th & 26th
11:00AM - 1:00PM
Ages 10 - 14
In-Person - Civic Center
84 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
All supplies included.



Watercolors - \$25

Thursdays, Sept 17th & 24th
11:00AM - 1:30PM
Ages 14 and up
In-Person - Civic Center
84 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
All supplies included.



Watercolors - \$15

Saturday, October 10th
11:00AM - 1:00PM
Ages 8 to 13
In-Person - Civic Center
84 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
All supplies included.

the Bloomfield community and neighboring towns by promoting and stimulating interest in art. The organization is sponsored by the Bloomfield PRCA Department and traditionally holds classes, lectures and demonstrations throughout the year. Membership is \$25 and includes: \$5 off art classes, demonstrations by award winning artists, juried exhibition opportunities, a 10% discount at Jerry's Artist Outlet and community events & celebrations.

Adult and junior memberships are available.

(Junior Art League members will receive a beginner's art kit.)

Upcoming Demos

Demos are FREE for Art League members, but you do not have to be a member to register. All demos are held at the Civic Center and supplies are included.

Printmaking on Clothing - \$25
Saturday, September 5
2:00pm - 5:00pm
Ages 14 and up

Ceramics Lessons - \$25
Saturday, Sept. 19 & 26
11:00AM - 1:00PM
Ages 10-14

Watercolors - \$25
Thursdays, Sept 17 & 24
11:00AM - 1:30PM
Ages 14 and up

Watercolors - \$15
Saturday, October 10
11:00AM - 1:00PM
Ages 8-13

Bloomfield's LAST CHANCE to Increase Funding!

The 2020 Census is nearing the end of its response phase but the township still needs your help. Thank you to those who have completed it. You are helping



Bloomfield with the much needed funding it will receive for the next ten years. If you haven't filled it out, it's not too late!

Census staff are going door to door and will make several attempts to talk with you to get the information needed. Please fill out the Census by phone, internet or by speaking in person with Census staff. It is safe, easy and important. Visit the Township website for more information or go directly to the Census website to fill it out at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>.

Community Cleanup



A township-wide cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 24. It is currently in the planning stages with more details to follow at a later time. Local groups interested in participating may reach out to Councilwoman Jenny Mundell at jmundell@bloomfieldtpnj.com.

Recycling Calendar



Week of August 31- commingled (glass, aluminum, plastic recycling codes 1,2,5)

Week of September 7*- mixed paper/cardboard

Week of September 14- commingled (glass, aluminum, plastic recycling codes 1,2,5)

Week of September 21- mixed paper/cardboard

Week of September 28- commingled (glass, aluminum, plastic recycling codes 1,2,5)

***September 7-** Labor Day holiday-garbage will be picked up on your next regularly scheduled garbage day. Monday Recycling will be picked up on Tuesday. There are no other changes to the schedule.

Paper Shredding Event- Saturday, November 7 from 9:00am-12:00pm at NEW LOCATION Pulaski Park Parking Lot, 24 Mt. Vernon Avenue Ave. This event is for residents only and you must provide proof of residency. This service is not available to commercial or industrial facilities. MASKS REQUIRED.

Essex County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Date: October 3, 8:30am-4:00pm

99 West Bradford Ave, Cedar Grove

Call 973-792-9060 or visit ecuanj.com for more information

Saturday Recycling Hours

The Public Works Yard at 230 Grove St. is open for recycling every Saturday from 9:00am-1:00pm (closed July 4). No garbage or bulk drop off. Bring only mixed paper/cardboard, commingled items-glass, aluminum and plastic (recycling codes 1,2 and 5 ONLY), electronics and used water filters. MASKS REQUIRED.

Bulk Pickup of Large Items

(No metals, appliances) occurs on the second garbage pickup day of each week. Three items maximum. You do not need to call the office to have items picked up.

Metals and Appliances

(Not electronics) are picked up every Tuesday. Call DPW at 973-680-4127 no later than 3:00pm the Monday before scheduled Tuesday pickup.

NO TRASH, DIRT AND ROCKS IN VEGETATIVE waste bags. Large branches must be bundled and tied in 4ft. lengths. (Waste bags and bundles may not weigh more than 50lbs).

Recycle Coach App

Recycle Coach: 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 and iPhone.

Council Meeting Schedule

Both Conference and Regular Council meetings will take place in Council Chambers, which was recently updated with modern style seating. Seating may be limited due to COVID-19. The meeting dates and times are:

Township Council Conference Meeting Schedule

September 14, 2020 Monday Conference 7:00pm

**September 21, 2020 Monday Regular 7:00pm

October 5, 2020 Monday Conference 7:00pm

October 19, 2020 Monday Regular 7:00pm

November 9, 2020 Monday Conference 7:00pm

November 23, 2020 Monday Regular 7:00pm

December 7, 2020 Monday Conference 7:00pm

December 14, 2020 (Combined Conference/Regular Meeting) 6:30pm

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.



The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that damages crops and hardwood trees. At least one of these insects has been identified in Bloomfield. The NJ Department of Agriculture urges residents who see these insects to "eliminate" (kill) them if possible and to report the location by calling 609-406-6943 or emailing slf-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov.

For more information and for photos, visit <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html>. (Please do not confuse the spotted lanternfly with the large milkweed bug, which is found on or near milkweed plants and is not considered harmful.)

Bloomfield Public Library

9/16, 6:30pm Free Concert on Zoom! "SUPER Music of the Movies" showcasing some of the most unforgettable international movie themes spanning the 1940s-1990s as acclaimed Violinist Dr. David Podles evokes vibrant melodies including: "Waterloo Bridge", "Sunvalley Serenade", "The Godfather", "Doctor Zhivago", "James Bond-007" and "Frantic."

Stop by the library courtyard on Tuesday, Sept 1 from 4:30-6:00pm! Ms. Cheryl will be outside with the veggie truck distributing summer reading prizes to all young readers!

Fall Storytime programs begin Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Regular schedule as follows:

Mondays: Spanish Storytime.

Tuesdays: Toddler Storytime.

Wednesdays: PreK Storytime.

Thursdays: Baby & Me Storytime.

Fridays: Arts & Crafts Time.

Special event: Storytime Boogie on Wednesday 9/16. All programs are virtual and post on Facebook at 11:00am. Check out the [library's Facebook page](#) regularly for special announcements.

The library is offering programming about civic engagement this fall. Presentation topics include the Electoral College, "fake news," and the 2020 election. Check their website for the full schedule.

Check their website for more details on accessing curbside pickup. If you have any questions, you can call them at 973-566-6200 or reach us through the chat function on their website at www.bplnj.org.

Nursing Division

Due to COVID-19, several clinics, screenings, and events provided by the Nursing Division are still pending at this time. COVID-19 testing is available for Bloomfield Residents please call 973-680-4057 for appointment availability. Also, go to www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com and click on Coronavirus COVID-19 Information.

Immunization Clinics for children and adults will be returning soon. Please call 973-680-4058 for more information.

At this time, The Nursing Division would like to continue to remind you of five easy steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or use your elbow when you sneeze or cough
- Wear a cloth face covering over your mouth and nose when around others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces around your home and work frequently.
- Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others if you are in public.

Stay safe!

Health and Human Services

Bloomfield Human Services is here to help!

Call us for assistance with :

- Food stamp applications
 - Food pantry info
- Food shopping for seniors/disabled residents (limited based on availability of volunteers)
- Health Insurance applications (Medicaid/ACA)
- Assistance with unemployment applications
 - Utility assistance programs
- Rental assistance (if funding is available)
 - Mental health services
 - Wellness calls
 - Senior Services

Call Human Services 973-680-4017

(If you get our voicemail please leave a message and a social worker will call you back!)



[Bloomfield Human Services está aquí para ayudar!]

Llámenos para asistencia con:

- Solicitudes de cupones de alimentos
- Información de despensa de alimentos
- Compra de alimentos para personas de la tercera edad / residentes discapacitados (limitado según la disponibilidad de voluntarios)
- Solicitudes de seguro de salud (Medicaid / ACA)
- Asistencia con solicitudes de desempleo
- Programas de asistencia de servicios públicos
- Asistencia de alquiler (si hay fondos disponibles)
 - Servicios de salud mental
 - Llamadas de bienestar
- Servicios para personas de la tercera edad

Llame a Servicios Humanos al 973-680-4017

(Si recibe nuestro correo de voz, deje un mensaje y un trabajador social le devolverá la llamada.)



VEGGIE MOBILE

GROWING HEALTHY CITIES

citygreenonline.org
@citygreenNJ
info@city-green.org

DOUBLE
SNAP, WIC, & SENIOR CHECKS
at all locations

Bloomfield Library
90 Broad St.
4:30pm - 6pm

July 7, 21
Aug. 4, 18
Sept. 1, 15, 29
Oct. 27
Nov. 10

Veggie Mobile farm stands added regularly!
citygreenonline.org/markets



Register your child for the

Back 2 School Store!

- Winter coats
 - Hats
 - Gloves
 - Clothing
- Underwear
- Books

Eligibility

Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2020 and entering kindergarten through grade 5 in Fall 2020.

To register your child, please call
Bloomfield Human Service 973-680-4017
by **September 4, 2020**

Limited spots available!!



Resources for Families Coping with Mental and Substance Use Disorders:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/families>

Volunteer to Help Elderly Bloomfield Residents

The Neighbor to Neighbor Network (NTNN) is seeking caring individuals to volunteer to assist elderly Bloomfield neighbors in need. The NTNN matches volunteers to Bloomfield seniors to help them with grocery shopping, errands, or just to provide some conversation and companionship. This volunteer opportunity is very flexible and would take about an hour of your time. You can also volunteer to shop or pick up food at a food pantry for a homebound or ill resident. If you or anyone you know could benefit from our services or would like to volunteer, please contact the NTNN Volunteer Coordinator at 973-680-4017.

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