



The New Town Crier

Official Newsletter of the Historical Society of Bloomfield
**50th Anniversary Commemorative
Double Issue! 1966-2016**



BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07003

May 2016

SAVE THE DATE

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

BLOOMFIELD CIVIC CENTER

84 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ

7:30 PM

The Role of New Jersey in the Civil War

Presented by

William Gillette, PhD

The program will explore the battlefield, enlistment motivations, training, camp experience, military discipline, combat and a comparative evaluation of the state's military record. Home front politics will also be discussed. The notion of New Jersey as a pro-southern and pro-slavery state will be rebutted.



Presented by William Gillette, PhD, Emeritus Professor of History at Rutgers University. Dr. Gillette graduated from Georgetown Univ., received his MA from Columbia Univ. and earned his Doctorate in History from Princeton in 1963.

For his book, "Jersey Blue: Civil War Politics in New Jersey, 1854-1865," Dr. Gillette won the McCormick Prize in 1997 for the best recent book on NJ history; *New Jersey Monthly* in 2002 listed "Jersey Blue" as one of the top ten nonfiction books about our state.

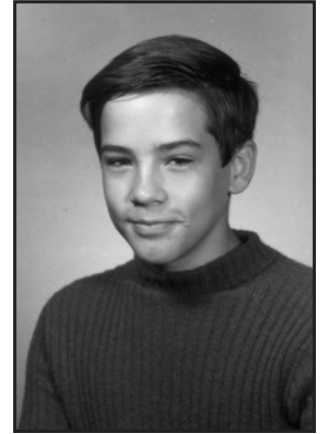
The Historical Society of Bloomfield Turns 50! **The HSOB Board in 1966**



John Debold:
Trustee, Membership



Mark Scurman:
Trustee (note the 1965 World's Fair tie)



Richard Rockwell:
Trustee, Webmaster, Assistant Editor



Anne Carlino:
Recording Secretary



Ava Caridad:
Newsletter Editor, Publicity & Promotion



Joseph Barry:
Vice President, Program

The Welcome Mat

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new HSOB members:

Joseph Berardinelli
Bloomfield

Kyle Kinder
Bloomfield

Mary Shaughnessy & Brian Nalepka
Bloomfield

Susan T. Bresko
Bloomfield

Gilda & Richard Luongo
Bloomfield

David Walsh
Bloomfield

Pat Carter
Bloomfield

Thomas McGovern, Jr.
Bloomfield

Robert & Joan White
Glen Ridge, NJ

January 1966

The Town Council unanimously reactivated the Town's Advisory Economic Development Committee. The prior Committee had submitted its resignation in November 1963.

The Garden State Parkway opened a new toll booth at interchange 148 near Bloomfield Avenue.

Town officials and Board of Education members broke ground for the new Board of Ed. maintenance building on Pilch St. The Board of Education also introduced a 1966-1967 budget of \$5,232,684, representing an increase of \$330,592.

February

The critical water situation got a shot in the arm when the Town Council decided to petition Governor Richard J. Hughes for help in obtaining the necessary commitments to permit the construction of a 30-mile pipeline to bring water from the Spruce Run-Round Valley reservoir to northern New Jersey.

The heavy storm that blanketed Bloomfield under seven inches of snow was met head-on by the town's Public Works Department. For some 24 hours, some 30 men worked around the clock to clear the town's main arteries.

The Chamber of Commerce strongly opposed the closing of the State Street parking lot and brought its case before the Town Council, complaining of the loss of 109 parking spaces that were fenced off to make way for the new Public Library.



The future Bloomfield Public Library

Mayor Walter J. Davis made two appointments to the Bloomfield Board of Education: Harold Brotherhood, an Assistant VP at The National Newark & Essex Bank and Vincent J. Biunno, a public relations executive with the Worthington Corp.

March

Snow, rain and sleet during February did much to replenish the reservoirs of Northern New Jersey.

Town Attorney Joseph P. Lintott was reappointed to office by unanimous vote of the Council, to a two-year term.

Councilman Don A. Cetrulo suggested that the Council name a committee of five to arrange a senior citizen program in Bloomfield and to weigh the costs before reporting to the Council.



The old Shop-Rite. Photo courtesy of John Debold.

The Bloomfield Civil Defense was activated late in March when all key personnel were called into an emergency meeting to prepare for the town-wide operational alert and hurricane emergency.

Mayor Davis held a meeting with Mayor Harry W. Chenoweth of Nutley pertaining to speed limits on John F. Kennedy Drive and East Passaic Avenue.

The Bloomfield Economic Advisory Committee made a 2.1 mile hike around the Watsessing section of town. In an hour and a half walk, with maps in hand, the group surveyed the 24 streets in the area.

The Board of School Estimate approved an additional appropriation request from the Board of Education in the amount of \$30,000 for rehabilitation work to be contracted for at Bloomfield High School.

April

Some 100 Shop-Rite employees in Bloomfield went on strike for higher wages and other benefits. The strike lasted for four days. At the same time, Pittsburgh Plate Glass employees went on strike for a short period of time.

Despite the fact that that Governor Richard J. Hughes lifted the State water ban, the Mayor and Council decided to retain the measure until they could decide whether to lift the ban or not. In the middle of April, the Mayor and Council lifted all water restrictions imposed as of May 17, 1965.

May

A stormy session was held in the Council chambers over three zoning ordinance changes concerning parking regulations for the new Lummus Company building to be erected on the Broadacre site.

Pomp & Circumstance were the order of the day for the Memorial Day Parade.

June

Bloomfield High School graduated 545 students; it was the second largest graduating class to date at that time.

State Conservation Commissioner Robert A. Roe extended the suspension of water conservation measures from May 31 to July 15.

Mayor Walter J. Davis met with the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Essex County in an attempt to have speed limits on East Passaic Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive reduced.

The Westinghouse Company on MacArthur Plaza completed the first phase of its renovation plan with the revamping of the second floor of its administration building.

Lehn & Fink Products Corporation moved its headquarters from Bloomfield to Montvale, NJ. The space it vacated was occupied by Pet Foods, Inc.

The Bloomfield Public Library Board of Trustees asked the Town Council for an additional \$118, 678 for furniture and equipment in addition to the \$600,000 it already received for the building.

July

The Fourth of July celebrations at Foley Field were held with all the regular ceremony: A track meet, followed by martial music, naming of the Outstanding Citizen of the Year and closing with a fireworks display.

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. broke ground for its new plant behind the Westinghouse Complex. The groundbreaking ceremony featured pink champagne in "popsicle" form.

Matt Fleumer, of 69 Jacob Street, had his college plans changed when he was appointed to West Point by Congressman Peter Rodino, Jr.

The Senior Citizens' Committee opened its office at 556 Bloomfield Ave. The office space was donated by William Parillo.

The FMBA (Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association) regained possession of the Little League town championship and the Mayor's trophy for the Mid-Town Little League by defeating Terry Drugs of the Northern Little League.

The Town Council decided to apply to the State for \$80,000 in aid for road construction to widen Orange Street between Molter Place and Bloomfield Avenue.

Sealed bids were scheduled to be received by the Town Council on July 25 concerning the leasing of the Center School property at 211 Liberty Street. Bloomfield College bid \$40,000 for the property for a four-year lease.

August

The Lummus Company broke ground for its new international headquarters on 20 acres of the Broadacres site. Mayor Walter Davis and James F. Thornton, Lummus President, officiated at the ceremony attended by many town officials.

An appropriation ordinance of \$35,000 was introduced in the Town Council to cover the cost of rewiring the Municipal Building to meet extra lighting needs.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment approved a variance application to allow the Kenran Corporation of Hillside to build a six-story apartment hotel at 268–276 Bloomfield Avenue.



Center School

Members of locals 410 and 412 at the Westinghouse Lamp Division raised \$2,245.54, half of which was donated to the Elks-Independent Press-Glen Ridge Paper Fresh Air Fund. The balance was contributed to the Moreau Publications Fresh Air Fund of the Oranges.

September

A sudden rainfall that persisted throughout the rest of the afternoon brought the Bloomfield Picnic on the Green to a reluctant early close on September 3, the Saturday before Labor Day. Otherwise, the picnic was a success in every way.

The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. was the high bidder for town-owned property at an auction held in the Council Chambers. The price bid for the 1.5 acres was \$40,000. The land lies behind the Pittsburgh Plate Glass complex at 225 Belleville Ave.

Mayor Walter J. Davis appointed a committee of nine members to review the subject of placing the municipal pool on referendum in the November election. *Editor's note:* In 2016, we are still waiting for that swimming pool...

A party was held at the Civic Center to bid adieu to Michael Berman, Superintendent of Recreation, who left Bloomfield to assume similar duties in Moorestown.

The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company announced plans to build a \$2 million plant, including laboratory and office building, facing John F. Kennedy Drive.

Councilman John W. Kinder was tendered a dinner that was a tremendous success and extremely well attended.

October

Francis C. Brown, President of the Schering Corporation, was killed in an automobile accident in Brussels, Belgium. The Board of Directors of the Schering Corp. elected W.H. Conzen to succeed Brown as CEO.

A campaign to raise \$169,350 was started by the United Fund. The campaign was launched during a dinner held at the Glen Ridge Country Club.



Test borings were started for a planned new Bloomfield College science and classroom building on the corner of Spruce and Liberty Streets.

A 13-year-old boy, on his way to school, was killed while crossing the Garden State Parkway. The victim, John Vallas, of 132 Willow Street, was with a friend when they attempted to cross the southbound lane of the Parkway.

The Schering Corp. announced plans to erect a \$1.6 million research biology building at its Orange Street research center.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment denied a zoning variance change to the Belove-Jacoby Company by a vote of 3-10. The applicant wanted to use a portion of the lot, zoned for business, to build a supermarket and shopping center.

November

Mayor Walter Davis announced that plans were going ahead to build a war memorial to the fallen men in the Vietnam War. The memorial would be built under the Garden State Parkway underpass on Bloomfield Avenue.

The Town Council announced that it was considering hiring additional college students next summer to be used by the Department of Public Works. The program was paid for by the federal government under the work-study program.

Nearly \$2,000 was raised for the Bloomfield Center Tree program to plant trees along Broad Street and Bloomfield Avenue. The Beautify Bloomfield committee planted flowers around the Center and planters were installed around town.

Police Benevolent Association (PBA) associates called for the construction of a modern police headquarters in Bloomfield.



Westinghouse Lamp Division

Sgt. Daniel Chiarello and Detective Harold Jorgenson of the Bloomfield Police Department, along with Sheriff Leroy J. D'Aloia and his narcotics squad, raided an apartment at 363 Broughton Avenue. The two residents of the apartment were arrested for violating the narcotics law.

December

The National Newark & Essex Bank took over the entire building at 2 Broad Street for its banking facilities.

The Bloomfield High School soccer team tied its championship game with Steinhart High School in the last minute to become state co-champions. *Editor's note:* The original author may have meant Steinert High School in Hamilton, NJ.

The first heavy snowfall fell on December 13 but was not heavy enough to warrant snow plows taking to the road.

The Town Council was informed that the Bloomfield Public Library will need \$104,000 to furnish the new library wing.

The Chamber of Commerce was informed of a plan to build a multi-level parking garage for some 527 cars. The project would cost in the neighborhood of \$900,000.

A second snowstorm hit the North Jersey area on December 21st . 1.5 inches of snow fell and was quickly disposed of.



Two Broad Street

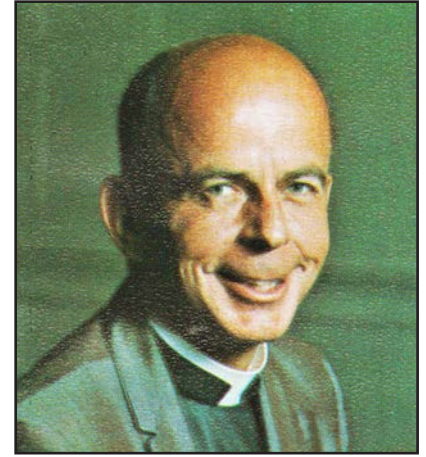


The Beautify Bloomfield campaign of 1966 got underway with the Boys Club doing its part to promote the worthwhile town project. The boys kicked off the program by tackling the cleanup of the Town Green.

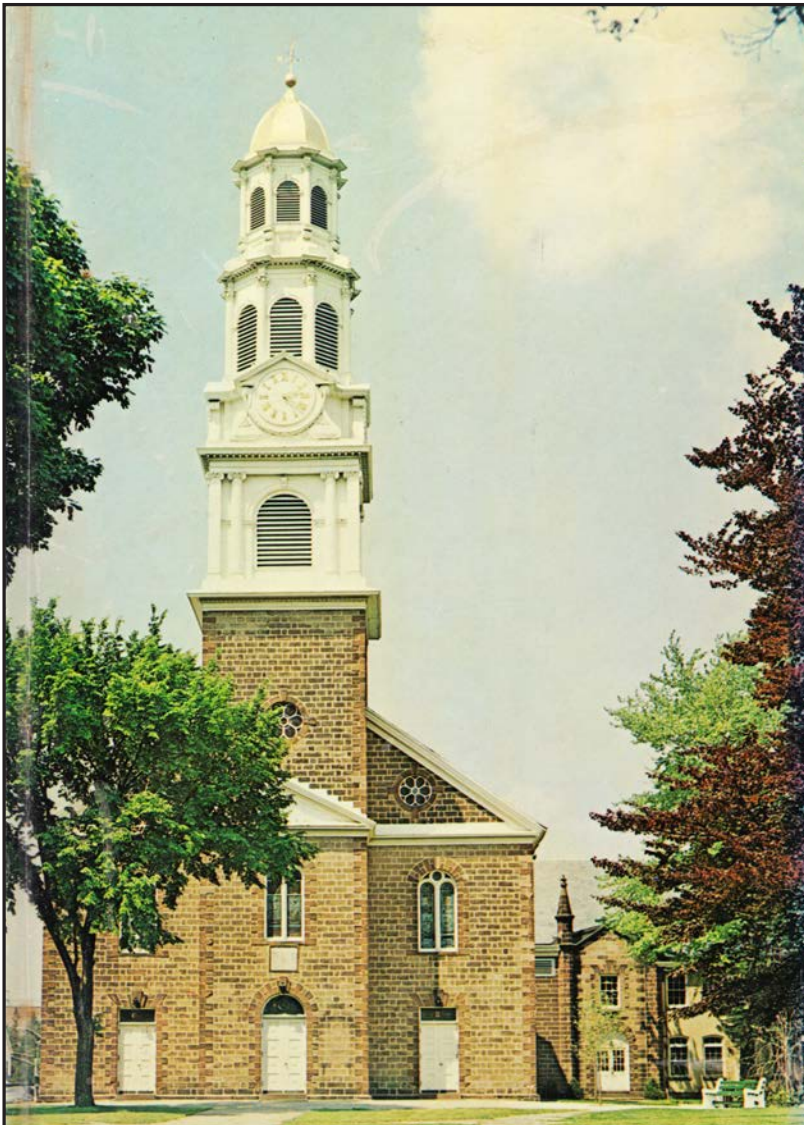
Presbyterians unite!

Four Bloomfield churches join forces in 1966 to become the Church on the Green.

In 1966, there were seven Presbyterian churches in Bloomfield. That year, four of these churches voted to merge: First Presbyterian Church (then called The Old First Church, first organized in 1796); Westminster Presbyterian Church (completed in 1892, now Westminster Hall of Bloomfield College); Park Avenue Presbyterian Church (or German Presbyterian Church, formed in 1855); and Ampere Parkway Community Church (erected in 1926). The new congregation elected to occupy the 1796 facility at 147 Broad Street and call itself The Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green. A new pastor, the Reverend Dr. Merle S. Irwin, was elected in May, and a renovation program was launched to restore the old buildings to serve in modern times. H. Robley Saunders, who had just completed restoration of Old First Presbyterian Church in Newark, NJ, was employed as the architect. The O.A. Peterson Company of Montclair, NJ was hired as contractor.



Reverend Dr. Merle S. Irwin



The Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

Westminster Presbyterian Church was sold to Bloomfield College for the sum of \$475,000, for use as a liberal arts center and convocation hall. The agreement called for the College to pay \$200,000 in cash and the balance over a 20-year period.

Park Avenue Presbyterian Church was sold to the Board of Education for future development of Bloomfield High School.

Ampere Parkway Community Church was sold to the Town of Bloomfield for use as a community center for teenagers and senior citizens.

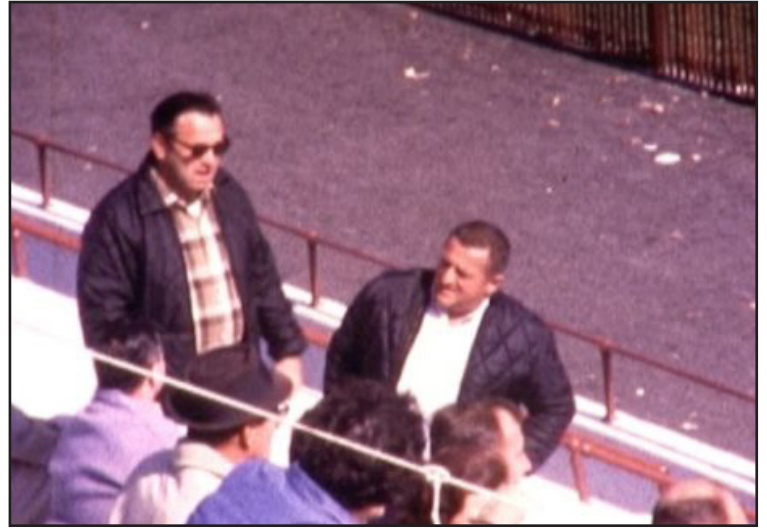


In 1966, Westminster Presbyterian Church became Westminster Hall of Bloomfield College.

Bloomfield Bengal Football in 1966



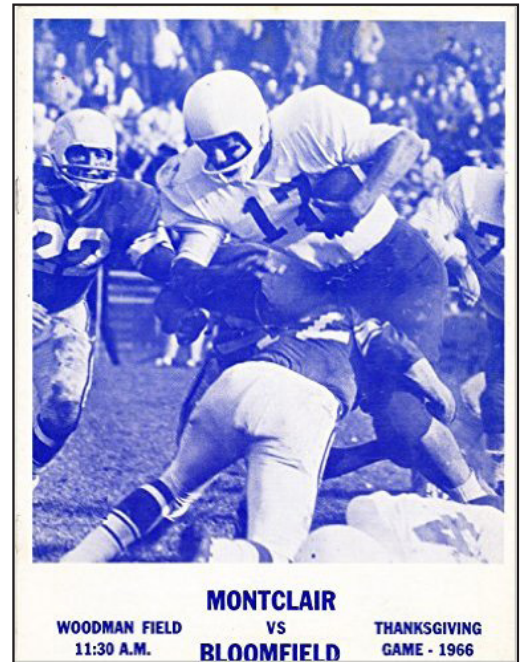
Ouch. An ambulance takes a player away at a Junior Varsity (JV) home game against Wayne.



Russell C. Caridad (left) and Sal Mondo (right) would rather shoot the breeze than watch the game at Foley Field.



Left: The Bloomfield Bengal Mascot and Marching Band entertain the crowds at a home game against Irvington.



Right: Bloomfield plays traditional rival Montclair on Thanksgiving Day 1966. Montclair won 49-14.

WOODMAN FIELD 11:30 A.M.	MONTCLAIR VS BLOOMFIELD	THANKSGIVING GAME - 1966
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Cheerleaders at a home game against Seton Hall Prep.



Fans at the old, concrete Foley Field (1934-2011) watch a home game between Bloomfield and Irvington.



General Joseph Bloomfield

THE NEW TOWN CRIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF BLOOMFIELD

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NEWSLETTER SOURCES:

- *The Independent Press*
- *Bloomfield Revisited*
- *Our Heritage-Bloomfield*
- *Presbyterian Church on the Green: 1796-1971*

Bloomfield in 1966

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Our **MAYOR** is **WALTER J. DAVIS**

Our **GOVERNOR** is **RICHARD J. HUGHES**

Our **PRESIDENT** is **LYNDON B. JOHNSON**

We drink **BROOKDALE SODA**

Some **CHURCHES MERGED**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Bloomfield gets a new **TOLL BOOTH** on
the **GARDEN STATE PARKWAY**

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

High School **SOCCER TEAM** ties in the
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

WATER RESTRICTIONS

SHOPRITE goes on **STRIKE**

The **LUMMUS COMPANY** comes to town

FIREWORKS at **FOLEY FIELD**

Where is our **TOWN SWIMMING POOL?**

PICNIC ON THE GREEN

BEAUTIFY BLOOMFIELD plants **FLOWERS**

The **BLOOMFIELD CENTER** tree program plants **TREES**

The **POLICE** want new **HEADQUARTERS**

MONTCLAIR wins **FOOTBALL GAME** on **THANKSGIVING**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING gets **REWIRED**

