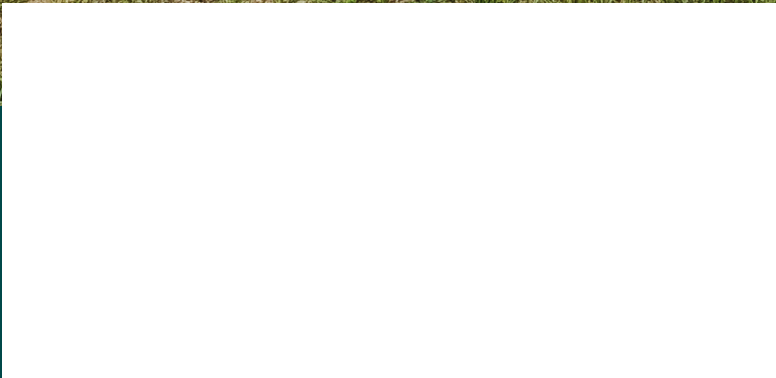


*Bath Township*  
**QUARTERLY**

SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3



3864 West Bath Road | P.O.Box 1188 | Akron, Ohio 44333 | (330) 666-4007





## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

There are many great opportunities to volunteer and serve on committees in Bath Township. Each committee is listed on the Bath Township website with full details.

These include:

- Friends of Yellow Creek
- Bath Township Zoning Boards
- Bath Township Museum Volunteer
- Heritage Corridors of Bath
- Bath Barns Project
- Bath Township Parks Board

**For more information, send a letter of interest to Bath Township Administration Offices at 3864 West Bath Road, Akron, Ohio 44333 or email [reception@bathtownship.org](mailto:reception@bathtownship.org)**

## DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION.....	330-666-4007
FIRE (NON- EMERGENCY).....	330-666-3738
SERVICE/PARKS.....	330-665-5066
POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY).....	330-666-3736
RUMPKE (Solid Waste).....	800-828-5068
SIMPLE RECYCLING.....	866-835-5068
SUMMIT CO. BUILDING.....	330-630-7280
SUMMIT CO. ENGINEER.....	330-643-2850
SUMMIT CO. FISCAL.....	330-643-2632

EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1

## REPORT A CONCERN

Did you know? Residents have the ability to report a concern through the Bath Township website under the "How Do I" tab. Resident concerns will then be directed to the appropriate department. A staff member will reply within 3-5 business days via the preferred contact method.

## Bath Township Elected Officials

### Board of Trustees:

**Sharon A. Troike, President**  
[stroike@bathtownship.org](mailto:stroike@bathtownship.org)

**Sean Gaffney, Vice President**  
[sgaffney@bathtownship.org](mailto:sgaffney@bathtownship.org)

**Elaina E. Goodrich, Trustee**  
[egoodrich@bathtownship.org](mailto:egoodrich@bathtownship.org)

### Fiscal Officer:

**Gregory Thewes**  
[gthewes@bathtownship.org](mailto:gthewes@bathtownship.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 Crime in a Digital World**
- 4 Official Opening: North Fork Preserve of Bath**
- 5 Administration Update: Park Levy**
- 6 Discover: Heritage Corridors of Bath**
- 7 Personnel Changes**
- 8 Miscellaneous News and Updates**

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- **U of A Field Station Songs from the Woods**  
-August 25
- **U of A Field Station 70's Sand Art**  
-September 1
- **Hale Farm Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival**  
-September 1-3
- **Electronics Recycling/Simple Recycling**  
-September 16
- **21st Annual Barn Social**  
-September 20
- **Hale Farm Harvest Festival**  
-October 7-8, 14-15
- **Fall Into Nature**  
-October 14
- **Camp Christopher Fall Festival**  
-October 21
- **BVS 6th Annual Trivia and Tacos**  
-November 10

## TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

The Administration Office frequently updates meetings and events on the township website. To locate the Calendar information, follow the steps below:

- Visit [www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org)
- Look for LATEST EVENTS on the home page
- Select VIEW ALL EVENTS

A month by month calendar will be available with details of public meetings and annual events.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Full-time, part-time and seasonal employment opportunities with Bath Township are found on the Bath Township website. To locate this information, follow the steps below:

- Visit [www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org)
- Click on HOW DO I at the top right
- Select APPLY FOR
- Select EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are updated as they become available.

## TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION HOURS

**Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
3864 West Bath Road - 330-666-4007

# Crime in a Digital World:

## What you need to know...

POLICE



Advancements in technology have streamlined processes to improve productivity for both business and personal activities. However, an emerging area related to artificial intelligence (AI), the simulation of human intelligence in computers, now appears to be changing the rules with how technology is evolving and the manner in which that technology is being used by criminals to perpetrate fraud. Sophisticated AI programs are now able to replicate voice patterns, allowing unscrupulous individuals to prey upon the most vulnerable in our communities. Digital theft, which involves fraud perpetrated through some form of electronic means, is one of the most common forms of fraud and is increasing at an alarming rate. Using open-source information from social media and AI tools, a criminal could potentially access and save the voice recording of someone, most often a victim's family member, and use that recording for an unlawful purpose.

FBI statistics over the past two years confirm over 88,000 people in the United States lost an estimated \$3.1 billion to digital theft with the most dramatic increase seen in the group over 60 years of age. The most recent Elder Fraud report from the FBI ranks Ohio sixth in the country for digital theft victims over 60 years of age. In 2023, 3,099 Ohioans over the age of 60 fell victim to scams perpetrated over the phone or internet. Law enforcement professionals believe these numbers are low because of the reluctance of many people to report being victimized.

The Bath Township Police Department continues to document incidents of digital theft and, in certain cases, has worked with Federal authorities to assist with investigating complex digital crimes. In many cases involving digital theft, victims were able to identify illicit activity on a bank account or credit card statement and the financial institutions credited funds improperly withdrawn from those accounts. Many financial institutions and credit card companies offer activity alerts on accounts, but it's up to the individual account holder to remain vigilant and notify a bank or credit card company of suspicious activity. Time is of the essence to report unlawful activity on a bank account or credit card.

A recent public service announcement through the Bath Township Police Department highlighted an ongoing safety risk regarding use of external blue U.S. Postal mailboxes to mail checks and other negotiable instruments. Victims reported a likely theft of mail from postal collection boxes where criminals altered checks (payee and amount information) found in outgoing mail and then successfully processed the checks for payment. This form of digital theft has been occurring throughout Northeast Ohio with some degree of frequency.

The following precautionary measures are designed to help residents avoid being victims of digital theft, or other forms of fraud.

1. Don't use shared computers on public wireless networks for banking or online shopping.
2. Destroy credit/debit receipts and pre-approved credit offers.
3. Keep a list of financial account numbers in a secure location.
4. Install virus and spyware detection software on computers and other electronic devices.
5. Protect social security numbers and other personal identifying information.
6. Don't click on links in emails that are from unknown publishers. Copy and paste links after verifying the sender is legitimate. When in doubt on the authenticity of an email, contact the sender by phone to verify the legitimacy of the correspondence.
7. When drafting physical checks, use gel pens or those recommended by your local lending institution to avoid chemical bleaching of the negotiable instrument.
8. Set up payee amount alerts with your lending institution to receive notification when a check is processed beyond a certain approved amount.
9. Contact your lending institution immediately when discovering possible fraud involving checks or other negotiable instruments. Policies on credit adjustments vary between lending institutions regarding altered and forged negotiable instruments.
10. Contact the Bath Township Police Department if you've been the victim of identity theft, or a crime involving theft and alteration of a negotiable instrument.



# Official **OPENING** North Fork Preserve of Bath

On June 14, Bath Township officially opened its newest park, North Fork Preserve of Bath. The opening of this park stands as a testament to the township's commitment to providing exceptional outdoor recreational spaces. Located at 4400 Everett Road, North Fork Preserve encompasses 78-acres with a diverse range of natural features including wetlands, streams, meadows and forests.

The property was transferred to Bath Township in 2020 from the Lemmon family who had owned and cherished it since 1955. The purchase was made possible due to several grants and the generous in-kind donation made by the Lemmon family.

Township parks and service crews have been working diligently on improvements to the park in order to ensure residents and visitors could begin to enjoy it.



Currently there is an established 2-loop walking trail, which encompasses one smaller loop through the meadow and a larger loop that winds through the beauty of the wooded area. Future plans include adding aggregate to improve the surface conditions as well as adding a third loop in the wooded portion of the trail.

Moreover, The University of Akron Field Station, which has been a long-time collaborator in Bath Parks, will also have access to the park for educational and research opportunities. This will expand their reach outside of the Bath Nature Preserve and allow them to facilitate invaluable research and educational outreach opportunities.

The township welcomes you to explore, discover, and enjoy what North Fork Preserve of Bath has to offer!



## **21st Annual Barn Social**

The 21st annual Heritage Corridors of Bath Barn Social is scheduled to take place at Crown Point Ecology Center on September 20th, 6-8pm. Crown Point has been an integral and cherished part of Bath Township since the 1960's, previously serving as the host venue for the second annual Barn Social in 2003. The decision to return to Crown Point is particularly auspicious given the inclusion of their barn, which features prominent barn quilt art - a key focus of the new Bath Barns Project subcommittee of Heritage Corridors of Bath. Those who have not received an invitation and are interested in attending can RSVP by phone 330-666-4007 or through email at [reception@bathtownship.org](mailto:reception@bathtownship.org).

## **Fall Into Nature 2023**

Embrace the spirit of the season at Fall Into Nature, a captivating and free family event, held at The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve, located at 4240 Ira Road.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 14, from 11-3, rain or shine. Sponsored by The University of Akron Field Station, Bath Township Park Board, and Bath Township, this event will showcase various local community organizations, offering interactive exhibits aimed at inspiring young minds to develop a profound appreciation for nature through engaging hands-on activities. Exhibits include hayrides, pumpkin patch, storywalk, bookmobile, celestial observatory, and more!





# ADMINISTRATION UPDATE: PARK LEVY

At its meeting on May 22nd, the Bath Township Board of Trustees approved a Resolution of Necessity to move forward with placing a five-year replacement and increase levy for the parks system on the November 7th General Election ballot. If approved by voters, it would replace a current .75 mill levy set to expire on December 31, 2023, but collect through December 31, 2024. The existing levy would be replaced and increased by .35 mills for a total of 1.1 mills to provide funding for the operations, maintenance, and capital expenses of the Township's over 500 acres of park property. The levy would generate annual revenue of approximately \$688,000.

The parks levy is the primary funding source for operations and maintenance of the township parks. Currently, the taxpayer expense of the .75 mill levy amounts to \$22.97 per \$100,000 of value on an owner-occupied property. If approved by voters, the cost of the 1.1 mill replacement and increase levy would be \$39 per \$100,000 of value on an owner-occupied property. In addition to the position of Parks Director, a staff of three full-time people and three seasonal employees during the spring and summer months operate and maintain the five Bath Township parks. Aside from reservation fees, donations and revenue from the lease of a portion of township park land to the University of Akron, park operations for each of the five parks are funded primarily through the current .75 mill levy, collecting at only .65 mills due to reduction factors.

Perhaps the most significant and evolving park in the entire park system is the Bath Nature Preserve. Grant funding has subsidized many capital improvements in the Nature Preserve over the years, and the township parks division is entrusted with its daily operation and maintenance.

Scheduled sporting events with local athletes are a large part of the activity in the Bath Parks. In 2022, there were 1,628 scheduled field reservations and 212 shelter reservations during the season in the Bath Parks.

The decision to replace and increase the parks levy is necessary as expenses for park operations, maintenance and capital expenses continue to climb. Under Ohio's Omnibus Budget Bill approved in 2013, the state's prior subsidy to homeowners of 12.5% of property taxes was eliminated for certain changes to levies. As a result of the budget bill and under the new legislative process, levies which are replaced or newly presented to voters lose the 12.5% rollback subsidy. As such, taxpayers will assume the additional taxes previously reimbursed by the state.

It is readily apparent, through community response from a survey conducted in 2022 the Bath Township parks system is an important part of this community. With an estimated 100,000 visitors to our parks in 2022, Bath Township's commitment to preserving and maintaining our parks system is undeniable.

**CAN YOU FIND IT ON THE TRAIL?** Bath Township Parks are full of discoveries! Can you find these unique features throughout your parks?



**The Loch Ness Monster of Bath**



**Twisted and Toppled**



**Woodpecker Hotel**



**Twin Tamaracks**

# Discover:

## The Heritage Corridors of Bath A self-guided tour 2023

The Heritage Corridors of Bath committee is thrilled to present an exciting opportunity to explore the remarkable beauty and historical charm of Bath Township. Discover the hidden history and breathtaking sights along the 39-mile scenic byway with this self-guided tour which features a carefully curated list of historical sites to showcase the unique essence of the township. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Bath community's history, natural wonders, and cultural landmarks. From the convenience of your car, you'll have the freedom to explore at your own pace, allowing you to savor every moment.

To embark on this remarkable adventure, you have two options. For tech-savvy residents, our digital tour offers an interactive map accessible via your smartphone or tablet. Simply scan the provided QR code or visit [www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org) to access the digital tour. The user-friendly interface will guide you from one stop to the next, providing fascinating insights and captivating stories along the way.

If you prefer a more traditional approach, we have thoughtfully crafted a beautifully designed booklet tour guide. You can pick up your copy at the township office.

The booklet guide features a detailed map, picturesque imagery, and engaging narratives about each stop on the tour. Whichever format you choose, you'll encounter a plethora of remarkable sights on your self-guided tour. Immerse yourself in the lush greenery of the township's pristine parks, where serenity and tranquility await. Marvel at the architectural wonders that tell the stories of the community's past. Capture the picturesque landscapes that have inspired generations of residents before you. Each stop on the tour offers a unique window into the vibrant history that makes Bath Township truly special.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to explore and connect with Bath Township in a new and exciting way. Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the area, the self-guided tour will introduce you to hidden treasures and local gems that will deepen your appreciation for and knowledge of this beloved community.

So, grab your booklet or load up the digital tour, and embark on an adventure through the Heritage Corridors Scenic Byway to uncover the wonders that await just around the corner!



## ZONING CHANGE

Future development plans for the 5.2-acre parcel at 4073 Medina Road, should be moving forward following a zoning change from B-3 to B-2. The proposed development includes Sheetz gas station, Texas Roadhouse restaurant, and a third retail coffee vendor, yet to be determined. The rezoning process to B-2 was a significant step that involved careful consideration of the property's potential impact to the area and the needs of the community. After thorough deliberation, the Summit County Planning Commission and the Bath Township Zoning Commission reviewed the development proposal and both entities separately recommended approval of the rezoning request. The Bath Township Board of Trustees considered those recommendations, as well as input from residents obtained during a public comment period.

Following extensive review of the development proposal, Bath Township, through legal counsel, entered into an agreement with the developer, ensuring full compliance with the requirements necessary to protect the interests of the community and that the property be developed as the developer presented to Bath. This agreement outlines the developer's responsibilities in adhering to the township's zoning and land use, as well as construction, traffic impact and environmental concerns. The agreement also includes provisions for tax increment financing (TIF) to fund public infrastructure improvements on Springside Drive and Medina Road. The TIF being considered, but not yet finalized, relates exclusively to public improvements to construct a turn lane on Springside Drive, and other traffic improvements. The TIF is a financing tool that utilizes only the increase in property tax revenue generated by

the new development and allocates it to public infrastructure projects. In this particular case, the TIF would be funded by 75% of the increase of property taxes on the 4073 Medina Road property for a period of 10 years. Important to note, property taxes on the current base valuation of the property remain unaffected and continue to be collected and received as normal. This approach ensures the burden of public infrastructure development does not fall solely on the local government and allows for the timely implementation of necessary improvements.

One of the main components of the proposed development is construction of a Sheetz gas station, a convenience store chain that offers fuel, food, and various amenities. The gas station will be constructed on the southernmost portion of the property closest to Medina Road. Another element of the development plan is a Texas Roadhouse restaurant. Texas Roadhouse is a national chain providing residents with a new dining option and attracting visitors from neighboring areas. Sheetz, Texas Roadhouse, and the anticipated third retailer are expected to create job opportunities, increase Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) revenue, and allow for the replacement of the aging hotel built in 1962.

Furthermore, execution of a comprehensive development agreement ensures the developer adheres to all township requirements, while tax increment financing (TIF) provides the means to improve public infrastructure with the proposed turn lanes on Springside Drive, and other traffic improvements. The rezoning change, combined with these measures, signifies a collaborative effort between the developer and the township to create a thriving, well-planned commercial development that meets the needs and aspirations of the community.





# TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL CHANGES



John Rodriguez was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Fire Chief in July of 2023. Assistant Chief Rodriguez started with Bath Township as a part-time firefighter in 1997 and only a year later moved into a full-time position. In 2013 he was promoted to the position of lieutenant where he has remained as a valuable and respected leader. John lives locally with his wife and daughters and is a valuable part of the Bath Township fire department and the community as a whole.



Staff Sergeant Rob Griffith has been with the Bath Police Department since 2004 when he started part-time as a patrol officer. He moved to a full-time status the following year. In 2018 he was promoted to sergeant. In June of 2023, he accepted his current position as Bath Police Administrative Staff Sergeant. This new role is a reflection of the changing needs of the Bath Police Department. Staff Sergeant Griffith will be in charge of overseeing a number of operational tasks.



Communication Specialist, Steve Albertson, began his career with Bath Township in March of 2022 on a part-time basis. He became full-time in June of that same year. Steve was drawn to working for Bath Township because of the "small town" feel of the community. Steve grew up just down the road in Northampton Township and appreciates the ability to get to know the residents. He came to Bath's department with nine years of experience in dispatch.



Evan Osborne joins Bath Township as our newest full-time park laborer. Evan started this summer as a seasonal worker for Bath. He graduated from Norton High School in May of 2023. Throughout his time in school, he had several employment opportunities that allowed him to gain the landscaping and park maintenance experience and skills needed in the township parks. Evan has expressed his desire to ensure that visitors to our parks have a positive experience. He has been a great addition to our Parks and Service department.



Sergeant Eric Shaffer was promoted in June of 2023 and assumed the position as sergeant for the third-shift staff. Sergeant Shaffer joined the Bath Police Department as a part-time police officer in 2013. He became a full-time employee not long after. Sergeant Shaffer had worked as the School Resource Officer prior to taking on the night shift patrol duties.



Officer Jason Knauer joined the Bath Police Department in June of 2023 with nine years of experience with the Jackson Township Police Department. Officer Knauer comes to Bath with a wealth of training and expertise. Officer Knauer said that he chose to come to Bath Township because there is a strong sense of community and a close-knit feel. People come together to support local events, organizations, and each other, creating a sense of belonging and camaraderie. Being a Bath Township Police Officer provides a sense of purpose and fulfillment. The job often involves tackling challenging situations and helping those in need, which can be incredibly rewarding.



Steven Tayerle has been an integral part of the Bath Township Communications Center since 2018. He recently took over the position of Communications Supervisor as of July 23rd, 2023. Steven is a seasoned dispatcher with over twelve years of previous dispatching experience at the Village of Mantua and the City of Stow. Steven is an example of the calm voice who is rarely seen but always heard and appreciated.



Mike Jones grew up in Bath Township, graduating from Revere High School in 2010. He went on to get his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron in Emergency Management in 2014. Firefighter Jones joined the Bath Township Fire Department as a part-time firefighter paramedic in 2012. In 2017, while continuing to work at Bath Township he joined the Copley Fire Department in a full-time position. In July 2023, Mike made the move into a full-time position with Bath Township. Firefighter Jones is an incredible asset to Bath Township with his depth of experience as well as his familiarity with the local community.



# IN OTHER NEWS:



**BE RESPONSIBLE TODAY FOR A  
BETTER FUTURE TOMORROW**

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

- Desktop Computers & Laptops
- Printers - All Types and Sizes
- Cell Phones, PDAs & Mobile Devices
- Telephones & Phone Systems
- Modems, Routers & Servers
- DVD Players, VCRs & Stereos
- Game Consoles & Radios
- Cables, Wires & Power Adapters
- Ink & Toner Cartridges
- Anything that plugs in or uses batteries
- Computer Monitors
- Televisions

\*There will be a charge for each CRT "tube" TV dropped off. \$10 for 12" and smaller and \$20 for anything over 12". Screens are measured diagonally. All forms of payment are accepted, but we ask that you have exact change ready to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

## HARD DRIVE SHREDDING

We will have our mobile hard drive shredder on-site. Ask our attendants on arrival where to park so you can bring your desktop or laptop computer to our shredding station and have the hard drive removed and witness it being destroyed.

### WHEN:

September 16, 2023. 10 AM - 2 PM.

### WHERE:

**Bath Elementary School**  
1246 N. Cleveland Massillon Rd. Akron, OH 44333.



*Hosted by:*



**SUMMIT  
e-WASTE**  
RECYCLING SOLUTIONS  
Don't Hoard the Cord!



An Akron Community Foundation Fund

Nine years ago, Bath Community Fund was established as a permanent endowment for the Bath community and an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation. The fund was created to respond to community needs, help the less fortunate, support local nonprofits, and reinforce and preserve Bath's historical and environmental legacy. Through the generous donations of community members, Bath Community Fund has grown to more than \$1 million and reinvested more than \$200,000 back into the Bath community through annual grants to local nonprofits.

Beginning Sept. 1 through Oct. 1, Bath Community Fund will accept grant proposals from nonprofit organizations that enrich the Bath community and improve residents' quality of life through programs committed to Bath's unique legacy; the local arts and cultural landscape; educational and recreational resources, particularly for youth; and residents' social service needs. Last year, Bath Community Fund awarded \$50,000 in grants to 20 local nonprofits.

To learn more, visit [bathcommunityfund.org](http://bathcommunityfund.org) or contact John Garofalo, Vice President of Community Investment at Akron Community Foundation, at 330-436-5624 or [jgarofalo@akroncf.org](mailto:jgarofalo@akroncf.org).



- Clothing
- Shoes/Boots
- Purses/Accessories
- Hats/Gloves/Scarves
- Toys/Games
- Kitchenware
- Dishes/Flatware
- Home Decor/Accessories
- Bedding/Linens
- Backpacks/Luggage
- Sports Equipment
- Tools

★ **Please bring items in closed boxes when possible** ★

**When: September 16, 10am-2pm**  
**Where: Bath Elementary School**  
**1246 N. Cleveland-Massillon Road**



## JEDD COMMITTEE UPDATE

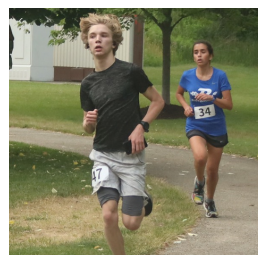
The Bath Township Board of Trustees recently solicited for interested residents willing to serve on a JEDD Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to review the February 15, 2000 report developed by the Economic District Revenue Committee which recommended the acceptable uses for JEDD funds within the township. This new committee will be given the history of how the JEDD formed and the sources of revenue from the JEDD which the township currently holds. The township is pleased to announce the following residents have been appointed to the newly formed JEDD committee.

- Ted Bare
- Jeff Bonomo
- Kelley Brubaker
- Jim Burns
- Dave Carlos
- Jen Hardin
- Shibu Joykutty
- Thomas Kamp
- Diana McCool

## WHAT YOU MISSED...



On Saturday, June 10 Bath Art Festival returned to Bath Community Park. The Bath Art festival featured 65 artists and crafters, local food vendors, live music and yoga. The weather was perfect making the event very well attended. Thank you to Renee Flynn for organizing this fun event in Bath Township.



On Friday, June 16 more than 50 runners participated in the annual Run to the Sun 5k race. Run to the Sun is the annual fundraising event for the Bath Parks Board. The event raised \$1526 which will be used to enhance the township parks. Thank you to all participants and volunteers who make this event possible.



From June 20 to June 23, 160 incoming Kindergarten students and 147 student volunteers participated in the 2023 Revere Safety Town. The event took place at Bath Elementary and offered a morning or afternoon session. Richfield and Bath Police and Fire departments work in partnership to bring this important event to the community.