

Bath Township QUARTERLY

WINTER 2023 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1



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Bath Township Elected Officials

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Photos courtesy
of John Landis.

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TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

***Holiday Schedule Posted Online**



ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Department started off 2022 with a number of personnel changes which continued throughout the year.

January 1 ushered in two new Trustees, Mr. Sean Gaffney and Mrs. Sharon Troike. In addition, Mr. Gregory Thewes was appointed to the unexpired term of Fiscal Officer left vacant with Mrs. Troike's election to Trustee.

In May, the township's Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk, Ms. Anne Gemind, retired after 24 years of service to Bath Township. Her position was filled by Ms. Susan Neff who spent several months in training prior to Ms. Gemind's departure.

With June came the retirement of Fiscal Officer Assistant, Roy Ferguson, who had served in this capacity since 2012 and relocated to warmer weather and to live closer to family.

The township's Executive Assistant, Ms. Jena Stasik, resigned in July to accept a job in the private sector. This left the Administration Department without someone in this vital role for the remainder of the year; however, we are pleased to announce Bath resident, Ms. Kasha Brackett, will take over in this capacity beginning in March.

Of the 10 members of the Administration Department, 6 members turned over within the year.

The department was busy throughout 2022 working on two large projects. First up, was our application for a State Capital Grant to fund improvements at the North Fork Preserve. Mr. Bill Roemer (Ohio House of Representatives, District 31) and Ms. Kristina Roegner (Ohio State Senate, District 27) were instrumental in their support of our application, visiting the North Fork Preserve and working on the township's behalf. Ultimately, Bath Township was awarded \$120,000 in grant funding.

To improve connectivity in the Montrose area, Bath Township was awarded a Transportation Alternative Set Aside Grant to design and build additional sidewalks in the Montrose commercial area. The original Phase 1 improvements were completed in 2019 and include sidewalks on the north side of State Route 18 from Springside Dr. to Cleveland Massillon Rd. Phase 2 will provide a sidewalk on the west side of Cleveland-Massillon Road between State Route 18 and Springside Drive. Phase 3 will entail a sidewalk on the north side of Springside Drive from Cleveland-Massillon Road to State Route 18. The design of the Phase 2 project is scheduled for 2023 with construction in 2024, and the design of Phase 3 is proposed for 2026 with construction in 2027.

Looking Ahead...

- Review options for use among the various township departments of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received in 2021 and 2022
- Continue community outreach projects in 2023
- Evaluate projects in the North Fork Preserve of Bath that will provide the most efficient use of State Capital Grant funds allocated to the township
- Support employee wellness and professional development initiatives throughout the township
- Consider expansion of online payment options through the Bath Township website to assist residents
- Coordinate with the Summit County Engineer's Office on two separate sidewalk projects approved for federal funding which will enhance and improve pedestrian and bike access in the Montrose Business District.



2022 STATISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

ALL CALLS FOR SERVICE

16,521

TRAFFIC STOPS

855

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

438

ALARM DROPS

606

BURGLARY

4

OPERATING A VEHICLE UNDER INFLUENCE (OVI)

32

POLICE



IDENTITY THEFT

In a world reliant on technology for Ecommerce and all aspects of personal finance, the risk of identity theft continues to create victims on a daily basis. While the Bath Police Department receives reports of residents having their personal information compromised, the crime is not easily traceable or solved. Identity theft generally involves the unauthorized use of personal information to commit a fraud, so if you think you are a victim of identity theft, immediately contact your local police department or sheriff's office and file a police report. The Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section has created an Identity Theft Unit to help victims of identity theft. The unit works with credit reporting agencies, creditors, collectors, and any other entity that may have information that was obtained under fraudulent circumstances. The Ohio Attorney General's Office also provides the necessary information to victims of identity theft to help remedy the effects of this serious crime. Clues that you may be the victim of identity theft include:

- You find inaccurate personal information or unfamiliar accounts on your credit report.
- You're contacted by collectors about debts you do not owe.
- You no longer receive certain mail, or you receive mail related to unfamiliar persons or accounts.
- You are denied credit for no apparent reason.
- You experience a sudden drop in your credit score.
- You receive bills that you do not recognize.

While there's no guarantee identity thieves won't uncover your personal information and use it without your permission, the Ohio Attorney General's Office provides some important tips to help people avoid identity theft.

- Never share personal information with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- Consider placing an initial fraud alert or a security freeze on your credit report.
- Never carry unnecessary personal information, such as your Social Security card, in your wallet or purse.
- Shred all outdated documents containing personal information; don't just throw them in the trash.
- Regularly update your computer software and mobile apps.
- Use internet passwords that are hard to guess and change them regularly. Passwords should be at least 12 characters and include capital and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.
- Set a passcode on your smartphone.
- When entering personal information online, make sure a website is secure.
- Don't conduct private business on public WiFi.
- Make copies of your credit cards, and store them securely so you can call to cancel them quickly if they go missing.
- If a bill fails to arrive, contact the company as soon as you notice its delay; thieves sometimes steal information from mailboxes or reroute others' bills.
- Avoid use of residential mailboxes or post office exterior boxes when depositing mail that contains checks or other negotiable instruments. Take mail indoors at the post office.
- Victims of Cybercrime can file a complaint on the www.ic3.gov website.

For more information, visit <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/IdentityTheft>





FIRE

OPEN BURNING

Spring is right around the corner. With the change in weather also comes an increase in open burning throughout the township. Each year the fire department responds to many complaints about open burning. Open burning regulations are governed by the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Ohio EPA defines an open burn as “any set outdoor fire that does not vent to a chimney or stack.” Locally, open burning enforcement is done through the Summit County Air Quality Management District. At Bath Fire Department, firemen apply the existing regulations in determining if an open burn should be allowed to continue or be extinguished. Final determination on whether fines should be levied against the individual responsible for the burn rests with Summit County Air Quality. Open burns that do not meet regulations typically do not result in fines unless there are repeated violations at the same location, by the same person/ group, or extremely egregious violations.

In general, open burning is permitted, without any advance notice or permits, for recreational purposes only. Recreational fires must meet the following requirements:

- The fire should be in an enclosed fire ring or pit to prevent fire spread;
- The fire may not be any larger than 2 feet high by three feet wide;
- Only clean, dry, seasoned firewood is permitted to be burned;
- The fire cannot generate excessive smoke or noxious odors;
- The fire must be attended at all times while it is burning; and
- A means to extinguish the fire must be immediately available.

Fires are also permitted for “ceremonial purposes” with prior approval from the EPA. The requirements are mostly the same as recreational fires except these fires are not allowed to exceed 5 feet high by 5 feet wide and cannot burn longer than three hours.

Burning for waste disposal or land clearing requires significant regulatory compliance and are only permitted with written approval from the EPA. It is also important to note that the Ohio State Fire Marshal has established a burn ban from 6 am to 6 pm from March to May and October/November of every year. This ban is directly related to times when outdoor vegetation is typically very dry and fire spread is highly likely.

Complete rules and regulations regarding open burning are available at:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/open-burning>



2022 STATISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

ALL EMERGENCY CALLS

1559

MEDICAL CALLS

1066

FIRE RESPONSE

493

MUTUAL AID GIVEN

180

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

66

FIRE INSPECTIONS

564

TOWNSHIP PERMITS SUMMARY

Accessory Structures

38

Residential Additions

32

Fences

32

New Residential

15

Swimming Pools

12

Sign Permits

10

Subdivision

3

Business Use Certificates

3

Commercial Additions

2

ZONING



PERMITS

The Township issued 147 permits in 2022 vs. 148 permits in 2021. The Township issued 1,461 zoning permits over the last 10 years. New home construction increased by 4 in 2022 compared to 2021. The Township has issued 158 new residential permits over the last 10 years.

TEMPORARY SIGNS

As a reminder, residents are not allowed to post temporary signs within the road rights-of-way (generally within 15 feet of the pavement) on township, county or state roads. Temporary signs are regulated through Article 13 of the Bath Township Zoning Resolution and, where allowed, require a permit. Your cooperation in removing temporary signs, which do not have a permit, would be greatly appreciated.



SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

The Township bid out a new contract which was awarded to Rumpke Waste for 3 years, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

2023 SEMI ANNUAL RATES:

CURBSIDE: \$113.34

SR. CURBSIDE: \$103.44 (65+ years old)

GARAGE DOOR: \$295.68

SR. GARAGE DOOR: \$267.54 (65+ years old)

Rumpke collected 4,589.58 tons of trash and recycling in 2022. Of the material collected, 18% was diverted to a recycling facility.

Rumpke is responsible for the billing and receipting for services. They are able to offer residents a number of payment options, including the online credit card payment option.

For customer account information and inquiries, please call Rumpke directly at 1-800-828-8171.



SERVICE

EQUIPMENT PURCHASED:

2022 Ford Explorer
2023 Ford Transit Van (ordered and awaiting delivery)
2024 Kenworth 5-ton truck chassis (ordered and awaiting delivery)

SERVICE DEPARTMENT CREWS:

Received 299 new external service requests. Resolved 344 external service requests.
Received 84 new internal facility related service requests. Resolved 84 internal requests.
Installed 29 residential driveway culverts and 3 road-crossing culverts.
Installed 361.82 tons of asphalt for spot repairs of roadways and drive aprons.
Corrected over 4,794 linear feet of roadside ditching throughout the township.
During the winter of 2021-2022, Service Department Personnel used a total of 1314 tons of salt and spent approximately 1,203.50 hours controlling snow and ice on township roadways.

MAJOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

Bath Township participated in the Summit County Engineer's Regional Paving Program and utilized several separate construction contracts to complete 2022 road projects.

YEARLY TOTALS:

ODOT Item #448 Hot Mix Asphalt Paving: 0.66 miles
ODOT Item #405/422 Motor Pave with #422 Chip & Fog Seal: 0.86 miles

CEMETERIES:

35 burials occurred (14 full burials and 21 cremations).
Installed 35 monument foundations.
63 graves were sold.

TOWNSHIP FACILITIES:

BCB: Replaced 3 HVAC Heat Pumps.
HTH: Contracted Exterior Restoration project was completed.
HTH: Replaced HVAC system and hot-water heater.



Department Goals

- Bath Center Building: Replace 3 HVAC Heat Pumps
- Road Purchase: Scheduled replacement of one 5-ton truck.
- Service Building: Design and create specs for building addition and siding repair project to be bid out in 2024.
- Service Personnel: Hire a Full-time Fleet Mechanic for the Service Department.





SPRING INTO NATURE WITH STEM



The University of Akron Field Station, Bath Township Park Board, and Bath Township are planning a spring event, the second Spring into Nature (SPIN) with STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 11-3, rain or shine. This science and nature themed day will once again be held at The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve, 4240 Ira Road.

This free, family friendly event is targeted at K through 5th graders (although older or younger students are welcome to join in the fun) focusing on educating them about the flora and fauna of Bath Nature Preserve and Ohio. Students will be asked to preregister at <https://bit.ly/SPINwithSTEM2023>

This event will feature complementary hands-on activities including a scavenger hunt, trail discovery card, orienteering, photography, Storywalk, bookmobile, celestial observatory and more. Students will take part in multiple stations or choose those that they are interested in. They will receive a nature journal to take home that includes some of the things that they learned during the event.

If you haven't been to the Bath Nature Preserve this event will provide a great opportunity to investigate the incredibly fascinating projects undertaken there. Bath Nature Preserve, a 411 acre preserve, was part of the Raymond Firestone Estate. It was purchased with a bond issue by Bath Township in 1997. The preserve has been open to the public since 2001 and hosts the University of Akron Field Station. Local residents are most familiar with the 7 ½ miles of trails including the paved North Fork Trail. The BNP also features a community garden with 40 plots, as well as, the Summit County Astronomy Club's celestial observatory with 10 telescopes.



Photos courtesy of Mr. John Landis.



If you wish to participate in the free STEM activities, please register with the QR code above.

Come join the fun!



Year End Review

Bath Township Parks continue to be a popular destination for residents and visitors of the community. Park personnel were busy assisting with the coordination of activities that included 212 shelter reservations at the Bath Baseball Park, Bath Community Park, and the Bath Nature Preserve. With 1,628 scheduled field reservations, Bath Parks estimates it had over 100,000 visitors for the scheduled sporting events at Bath Baseball Park, Bath Community Park, and Bath Hill Park. These events included summer tennis and soccer clinics and the Regal Beagle Ultra marathon in the fall. In addition to the shelter reservations and sporting events, park personnel assisted the Bath Park Board with their annual events throughout the year, such as the 10th annual Chillin' on the Hill, Spring into Nature with STEM, the State of the Parks, the 2nd annual Run to the Sun 5k, and the 14th annual Fall into Nature. Postponed from the originally scheduled date of June 12th due to inclement weather, the 6th annual Bath Art Festival was held in July with the largest turnout to date. Fifty-seven vendors, outdoor yoga, a DJ, Summit County Humane Society Mobile Adoption, and several food vendors participated in the event which received a lot of positive feedback.

As our parks increase in usage, amenities, and size, it became necessary to evaluate our staffing needs in 2022 to ensure that park visitors continue to receive the standard of quality they deserve. With the addition of shelters, restrooms, and trails, the time employees spend maintaining these has also increased so the need for an additional staff member was essential. In April, the Park Division hired a full-time park laborer to help maintain that service. The park division staff currently consists of 3.5 full-time and several seasonal employees who work to provide park visitors with an educational, safe, and enjoyable experience in Bath Township Parks. Park personnel specialize not just in public service, but customer service to the township's residents and all park visitors. Because of this, Bath Township Parks have been recognized both locally and statewide.

In 2022, Bath Parks saw the completion of several projects, highlighted by the ongoing improvements at our newest park, the North Fork Preserve of Bath, which is not yet open to the public. Projects at the North Fork Preserve of Bath included the installation of a 10-car gravel parking lot, constructed new drive access, installed a native flower bed at the entrance, and installed the entrance sign, which was partially funded by Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition from a 2021 Summit County Community grant. At Bath Community Park, the parking lots were chip and sealed. In the Bath Nature Preserve, park personnel installed a primitive style board walk on Bath Pond Path, south of Bath Pond. Bath Hill Park received a parking lot chip and seal, as well as the addition of a pickle ball court. With a generous donation from the Bath Park Board, one of the existing tennis courts was able to be double lined with pickle ball court striping and nets were added.

Looking Ahead...

- Trail improvements at the North Fork Preserve of Bath,
- Rehabilitation to the Regal Beagle Shelter and Baseball Park Shelter and concession stand,
- Football/lacrosse scoreboard upgrade at the Bath Community Park, and
- Update to all park and trail maps.

THINGS TO KNOW



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 and be directed to the appropriate department. A staff member will reply within 3-5 business days via email, if it is the preferred contact method.

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:

- In your web browser, type in "www.bathtownship.org,"
- Click on the "HOW DO I" tab located at the top right of the screen; then select
- APPLY FOR --> EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are updated as they become available.

TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

The Administration Office frequently updates meetings and events on the township website. To navigate to the calendar, look for LATEST EVENTS on the home page and select "View all events." A month by month calendar will be available with details of public meetings and annual events.

PROJECT PRIDE

Choose a clean Bath! Community Project Pride is a roadside litter clean-up event sponsored by Bath Township, Richfield Township, and Richfield Village and supported by homeowners, businesses, and Revere Local Schools on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 9a.m.-12p.m. Residents and business owners are encouraged to volunteer of their time to help support this important community effort. To RSVP, visit the link below:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/558NT7W>





OTHER NEWS

COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

Through use of the online platform Survey Monkey, a community questionnaire was developed asking residents to provide input on a variety of topics and township services and rate their level of satisfaction. Scores for each service were ranked on a scale of 1 to 5 (1- Very Dissatisfied, 3- Average, 5- Very Satisfied). Included in the survey were questions surrounding police and fire services, roads, parks, as well as zoning and land use.

Residents were offered several options to complete the survey before the September 30, 2022 closing date and in total, 786 people responded to the community questionnaire. Police Department services were rated as a 5 on the scale by 74.73% of respondents who indicated they were extremely satisfied with police services in Bath Township.

With 79.45% of residents scoring Bath Fire/EMS as a 5 on the scale, emergency services continue to be an essential part of Bath Township local government.

Resident satisfaction with the Bath Township Parks division was solid with 63.51% of residents scoring the department a 5 on the approval scale.

Managing 62 lane miles of township roads isn't an easy task, yet the Bath Township Service Department performs routine maintenance of these roads and utilizes a priority system for paving operations. Acknowledging the important work of this department, 71.19% of township residents scored the service department with an above average rating at a 3.93 weighted total out of 5.

Zoning and land use were some of the most involved areas of review in the community survey. Bath Township Zoning received an above average rating at a 3.60 weighted total out of 5 on the approval scale from 55.97% of respondents.

Highlighting the importance of preserving Bath's rural character, residents who responded to the survey felt increased development should be concentrated to the business districts in the township.

Detailed results of the community survey can be found on the township website at www.bathtownship.org



Aerial drone photo of the Wayside Exhibit, 950 N. Cleveland Massillon Road.

BATH TOWNSHIP SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH DRONE PROGRAM

Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS), more commonly referred to as drones, are increasingly being used in the public and private sector. Through advancements in technology, drone use is being applied for law enforcement, fire /ambulance services, inspections, environmental monitoring, and disaster management by federal state and local governments throughout the country. Used extensively in the area of commercial photography over the past five years, drones have evolved considerably and continue to incorporate features beneficial to a variety of end users. Before undertaking a drone program in Bath Township, extensive research was performed on the types of drones commercially available and the training required to comply with federal aviation regulations. Because the use of drones for township purposes is necessarily a commercial activity, anyone piloting the sUAS must possess an FAA Part 107 license. Training and testing are part of the licensing protocols. Currently, three members of the township attended specialized training sponsored through Cuyahoga Community College and successfully passed the 107 sUAS written test. (DRONE PROGRAM CONTINUED ON PAGE 12).

DRONE PROGRAM, Cont.

Recognizing the importance of incorporating sUAS into township operations, several drones have been acquired and are being used for public safety and mapping functions in Bath Township. Through the generous grant award of \$2,500 from the Bath Community Fund, a mid-size drone (DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise) was purchased and is used for quick deployment and general-purpose applications. A local resident and owner of Ohio Drone Repair Co. gifted a smaller drone to the township primarily for indoor applications. This DJI Avata drone, for example, could be deployed by law enforcement personnel to search the interior of a building without putting personnel in harms way. Similarly, the drone could be placed in a commercial structure to potentially identify the source of a hazardous fire, or chemical contamination. A larger DJI Matrice 30 drone was purchased through township resources with features that include: thermal imaging, zoom lens and an outdoor spotlight and speaker. Drones equipped with these advanced features have been used recently in several northeast Ohio communities to locate missing persons and for mapping operations.

The increased use of drones for both commercial, as well as recreational purposes does create inherent challenges. Safety concerns with flying drones near people or structures and privacy issues are concepts central to the regulations set forth under federal rules. In adopting its drone program, Bath Township seeks to utilize this new technology in ways that will improve safety and security of the community and enhance township services.



safety town

Calling all incoming Kindergarten Students
for the 2023-2024 school year who reside in the Revere Community

June 20th - 23rd 2023 at Bath Elementary School
1246 N. Cleveland-Massillon Rd.

Two Sessions Available:
Morning Session - 9am to 11:45am
Afternoon Session - 1:00pm - 3:45pm

Questions? Email us at reveresafetytown@gmail.com




Applications accepted now through June 1, 2023
Visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTCWGQ2>
or scan the QR code above.

Your Safety Town Team
 Scott Dressler, SRO/Richfield Police Department
 Geoff Kuzas, Bath Fire Department
 Stacie Campbell, Bath Police Department
 Kevin Urban, Richfield Fire Department



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).....1-800-828-5068
 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



GET INVOLVED

Bath Township provides many great opportunities to serve on volunteer committees, including the Bath Museum, Heritage Corridors of Bath and Friends of Yellow Creek. For local non-profit organizations, the Bath Attractions group may be another exceptional way to get involved in the community and its organizations. Each committee is listed on the Bath Township website with full details.

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