

# *Bath Township* QUARTERLY

SPRING 2023 | VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2



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



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3 In Memoriam  
- Alan Garner
- 4 Distracted Driving  
Law Changes
- 5 Park History Tour
- 6 Energy Aggregation
- 7 Fire/Service News
- 8 What You Missed

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- Memorial Day Ceremony  
-May 29
- Bath Art Festival  
-June 10
- Run to the Sun  
-June 16
- Garage Sale  
-June 17
- History Tour  
-mid-June through mid Aug
- Safety Town  
-June 20-23

## 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.

## GET INVOLVED

Bath Township provides many great opportunities to serve on volunteer committees. 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 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).....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

## 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

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)

Gregory Thewes, Fiscal Officer  
[gthewes@bathtownship.org](mailto:gthewes@bathtownship.org)

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



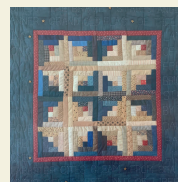
# Alan Garner ~~~~~

## A life well lived



The Bath Township Community suffered a tragic loss on March 31 with the sudden and unexpected passing of Bath Parks Director/Assistant Service Director, Alan Garner. Alan's loss is especially painful for those who worked closely with him and knew him as family in this community. We pay tribute to our friend and colleague, expressing our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and co-workers who continue to grieve his sudden passing. As we move forward, we reflect upon the life of this esteemed man whose contributions to the township will leave an enduring mark in the Bath Township Parks. Alan will be remembered as a goal-oriented leader and someone who gave so much of himself, expecting little in return.

A visionary who led with integrity and was passionate about the Bath Township Parks. Through his devotion to his work, he was always willing to accommodate the needs of the community. Alan worked closely with the Revere Baseball Softball Association, Bath Park Board, University of Akron Field Station and other community partners to ensure the long-term sustainability of the parks system. We will long remember Alan's motivation, commitment to excellence in his work and tremendous accomplishments as Parks Director. For those fortunate enough to have known and worked with Alan, his legacy will live on in Bath Township.



## HERITAGE BARN OF BATH

It doesn't take long to travel the 39 miles of scenic by-ways in Bath to realize there is a strong bucolic atmosphere based upon a long agrarian history. Bath offers almost 600 acres of parks, the Yellow Creek riparian corridor, dozens of historic buildings (30 on the National Register of Historic Places), and nearly 100 century homes. Of course, there are also discoveries to be found at places like Hale Farm, Crown Point, and the Bath Township Museum. However, one would certainly notice something else, barns...lots of them!

Today, there are approximately 60 barns within the 22 miles of the township. Many of these historic structures are over a century old and have been turned into shops, storage, businesses, and even houses. However, barns have not enjoyed the same level of recognition as many of the other historic buildings. The State of Ohio has designated the barn as its official historical architectural structure. Bath Township believes it can do more to preserve the historic significance of these structures. To accomplish this, the Heritage Corridors of Bath Committee has introduced a plan to enhance Bath barns. The plan outlines a project which has two focus areas. First, to preserve the history, the plan is to create a barn book which details the story of the barns. To ensure accuracy, barn owners would be asked to assist and requested to submit photographs and narratives of the rich agricultural significance of their property. Second, to enhance the barns the committee would promote the addition of barn quilts or barn art to their structure. An added feature to highlight these structures would be the creation of a "Quilt Barn Tour" for the barns located on the scenic by-ways, for interested owners.

The Heritage Corridors of Bath Committee has formed a subcommittee to work on this plan. Mr. James McClellan will lead this effort and several citizens have raised their hand to volunteered alongside. Bath Township invites any member of the community that would be interested in serving on a committee to move this project from a vision to reality.

If you are interested in serving on the subcommittee or having your barn featured on the trail, send an email to [reception@bathtownship.org](mailto:reception@bathtownship.org) or call 330-666-4007. Bath Township has a strong and proud history, and the barn is a visible representative of that history. Help take this journey of discovery and help preserve and enhance our heritage.

# PHONES DOWN. IT'S THE LAW.

## POLICE



A significant change to Ohio law regarding prohibited activities on use of a cell phone or other electronic device while driving became effective April 4, 2023 with a 6-month grace period for enforcement. To address distracted driving, use of a cell phone or electronic device in certain circumstance while in your car is now deemed a primary offense, allowing law enforcement officers to stop and issue a citation without any other associated traffic violation.

The most notable of the prohibitions under the law includes texting while driving, but manually dialing a phone number or internet searching are now considered violations.

For those concerned with the strict application of the law, there are several exceptions. Hands free operation of a cell phone, including use of features like voice to text or Siri personal assistant are permitted activities. Other exceptions include:

- Drivers reporting an emergency to law enforcement, a hospital, health care provider, fire department, or similar emergency entity.
- Drivers holding a phone to their ear only during phone conversations, if the call is started or stopped with a single touch or swipe.
- Drivers holding or using cell phones and other electronic devices while stopped at a traffic light or parked on a road or highway during an emergency or road closure.
- First responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS), using electronic devices as part of their official duties.
- Utility workers operating utility vehicles in certain emergency or outage situations.
- Licensed operators using an amateur radio.
- Commercial truck drivers using a mobile data terminal.

Distracted driving is certainly a contributing factor to many motor vehicle crashes throughout the country involving injuries and fatalities. The current law is a positive step in addressing a practice on use of cell phones many have grown accustomed to as part of what they deem normal driving habits. As proof of the anticipated effectiveness of the new law, representatives with the Ohio Department of Transportation cite similar laws in other states that have seriously reduced the number of rear end crashes. In these states, legislative changes expanded existing prohibitions on texting while driving to include many of the prohibitions in the current law.

## How to be better at recycling for **RUMPK!**

### DON'T:

- Plastic bags, ALL varieties (tangle in recycle conveyor rollers)
- Batteries, even if they have the recycling symbol (fire hazard)
- Clothes, hoses, rope, twine, pool covers, and tarps (tangle in recycle conveyor rollers)
- Styrofoam
- Aluminum baking trays (even the disposable variety)
- Shredded paper (take to a place that shreds)
- No plastic berry and tomato containers (or any clamshells)

### DO:

- Recycle pizza boxes (even with grease)
- Leave labels and/or tape on boxes and jars
- Collapse cardboard boxes
- Leave lids off glass, and lids on plastic
- Clean cans by rinsing excess food out (no need to wash)
- Leave all items loose inside the recycling bin (no tying, nesting, or bagging) \*including paper/newspapers

## WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!





# -Back to Nature- EXPLORE BATH PARKS



Bath Art Festival  
June 10, 2023

In its 7th year at Bath Community Park, this community event features 65 artists and crafters, local food vendors and music.

Representatives from Bath Business Association and Bath Community Fund will be on hand to discuss participation in their organizations. Yoga Bliss will also have an outdoor yoga session. Please contact Yoga Bliss directly regarding participation at 330-576-6687.



Run to the Sun 5K

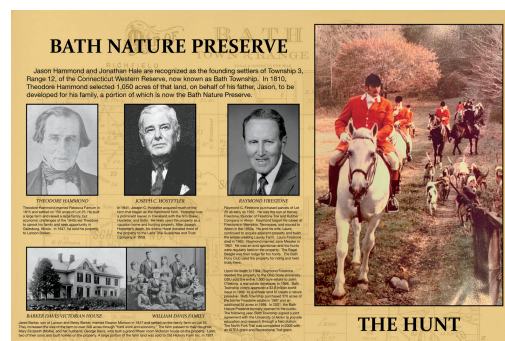
June 16, 2023 at 7 p.m., Bath Community Park, 1615 N. Cleveland-Massillon Road. Runners start at Chief Logan (sun) and run through the Bath Nature Preserve along the Solar System Walk. The observatory will open afterward, skies permitting. Awards for top three female and male finishers. For details, please contact [jennifer1986cf@msn.com](mailto:jennifer1986cf@msn.com) or register at <https://tinyurl.com/y2huendc>

Summer is the season to Explore Bath Parks! So, as an incentive the historians at Bath Township Museum have created information signboards which tell the history of each park. You are invited to experience this free Park Walking Tour which will feature 7 park properties with the historical information signs. In addition, the Bath Township Museum will present an exhibit on the history of Bath parks and schools.

Pre-registration for the tour will take place during the month of June through the township website at [Bathtownship.org](http://Bathtownship.org). The tour will run from mid-June to mid-August. That will allow for one visit a week. You will need to take a selfie with the information signboard in the background as proof of your visits. If you visit all seven parks and then the museum you will receive a lanyard at the museum with "Bath Township Parks" printed on it. The parks are open from 7am until dusk.

## Park signs can be found at the following locations:

- Bath Nature Preserve, located at the intersection of the multi-purpose North Fork Trail and the Bridle Trail, features the lives of Theodore Hammond, William Davis, Joseph Hostetler and Raymond Firestone.
- North Fork Preserve of Bath, located along the new Triple Loop Trail, relates the history of Emmet Collins, Sam and Asma Nemer's Lebanese Cultural Festival and James and Betty Lemmon and the Greenberry Riding Centre.
- Bath Community Park, located on the Figure Eight Trail at the rear of the property, recounts how the property passed from Joseph Fulton to John Duryee, to Gilson and Nettie Shaw, then to Sid and Martha Lawson. A portion of the farm became Bath's first park, Bath Community Activity Center, in 1971.
- Bath Baseball Park, located at the intersection of the four baseball/softball fields, tells about the Wyckoff farm, followed by the Aberth family who used the property to grow wheat for the City Bakery in Akron, followed by the Baumgardner family who had a dairy farm. Subsequently, Raymond Firestone owned it as part of the Firestone estate. When Firestone Trace was developed it was dedicated as green space.
- Bath Hill Park, located on the Revere Woods Trail, describes the acquisition of the property by the Gibsons and Grahams who came here from West Virginia to work in the rubber factory.
- Bath Memorial Park, located near the memorial monuments, chronicles the history of Bath's schools because the "Temple on the Hill" which was located on this site, was the first elementary and high school in Bath Township. It was razed in 1923 when consolidation of the nine corner schools took place and Bath Township School was built.
- The Heritage Corridors of Bath Wayside Exhibit, located near the shelter, reports how Bath Township's county roads have been designated as an Ohio Scenic Byway since 2000.



Bath Township Museum participates by documenting the history of the parks and displaying picturesque photos of Bath's natural areas.

**Take the time to get Back to Nature - Explore Bath Parks!**



# ADMINISTRATION

As energy prices continue to climb throughout Northeast Ohio and across the country, communities are adopting strategies designed to assist residents and businesses to find the best prices for electric and natural gas utility rates. Energy aggregation is the most frequently used method to secure price rates for electric and gas utilities and involves a community working with a supplier to lock in rates for a defined period. Ohio Law permits community utility aggregation and in Summit County, aggregation legislation was adopted as early as May 2002.

Since 2017, Bath Township has been part of a Summit County aggregation program for natural gas rates through NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 1-855-667-3201). Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in the Standard Program Price. NOPEC is one of several companies offering natural gas rate pricing and, as such, residents can also choose to opt out of a community's aggregation program and select their own supplier for gas or electric service.

Bath Township is also part of an aggregation program for electric use through the firm, Energy Harbor, LLC. Current pricing under the Summit County plan is .046704/kilowatt hour valid through the May 2024 billing cycle.

Local electric supplier First Energy recently announced significant rate increases for the electric utility effective June 2023. For residents who aren't currently enrolled in an aggregation program, or who may have voluntarily opted out of the Summit County aggregation plan, but remain eligible for aggregation, they may contact Energy Harbor at 1-888-254-6359 to determine if they can return to the aggregation plan.

Residents and businesses ineligible for aggregation include:

- Customers who are net-metered due to producing energy through alternative sources.
- Participants in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
- Customers who are in arrears on utility payments
- Mercantile accounts with monthly usage in excess of 750,000 kwh

A state website that offers a comprehensive comparison of gas and electric suppliers can be found at:

[www.energychoice.ohio.gov](http://www.energychoice.ohio.gov)

While some suppliers may offer lower rates, be mindful of early termination fees and the plan duration offered between suppliers.

## MEMORIAL DAY

BATH TOWNSHIP WILL HOST THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE ON MAY 29, 2023 AT NOON AT THE BATH TOWNSHIP VETERANS MEMORIAL LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF WEST BATH ROAD AND CLEVELAND MASSILLON ROAD.

THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY WILL FEATURE MUSIC FROM THE REVERE HIGH SCHOOL BAND, FLAG PRESENTATIONS BY BOY SCOUT TROOP 385 AND BATH TOWNSHIP FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS, AMVET POST 176 COLOR GUARD, AND SPEECHES FROM A GIRL SCOUT FROM TROOP 90190 AND COLONEL JAMES C. MCCLELLAN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, RETIRED.

ADDITIONALLY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE, THE CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE AN AIRCRAFT FLYOVER. RESIDENTS OF BATH TOWNSHIP CAN EXPECT TO SEE A C-130H FROM THE 910TH AIRLIFT WING AT YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION JUST AFTER 12 P.M. THE 910TH AIRLIFT WING IS TASKED TO MAINTAIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S ONLY LARGE AREA FIXED-WING AERIAL SPRAY CAPABILITY WITH MISSIONS TO BE EXECUTED IN COMBAT AREAS, ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, AND IN RESPONSE TO DISASTERS OR EMERGENCIES AS DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.





# FIRE



Bath Fire Department recently took delivery of a 2022 Sutphen Monarch Rescue Pumper. The fire department was fortunate to be able to claim this particular truck which was already in the production process to be built as a dealer demonstration unit. This enabled BFD to take ownership of the truck in about one year as opposed to the current 2–3-year lead times. The truck was purchased through Sutphen Corporation, a 133-year-old family-owned company based right here in Ohio. Sutphen worked with BFD to change some of the specifications so that the truck very closely matched the configuration of the 2017 Sutphen Pumper already in the fleet. Purchasing this particular unit made it possible to avoid the repeated price increases that have occurred over the past year. In early May, the new truck will go to Sensible Products in Richfield for final outfitting and equipment installation. This will allow the truck to be in service at Station 1 by mid-May, replacing a 23-year-old pumper that is currently in service at Station 2.



# SERVICE

## Upcoming Roads/Bridges Projects

Township Projects:  
(estimated July '23 start)

- Chipseal:
  1. Ghent Ridge Road
  2. Spring Water Drive
  3. Arborry Hill Drive
  4. Carle Road
  5. Appian Way
- Asphalt:
  1. Section of Rock Ridge Lane
- Road Repairs
  1. Various locations throughout township

Summit County Projects:

- Revere Road Bridge over Revere Run. Estimated start June 2023
- Granger Road Bridge between Timberline and Robinwood Hills. Estimated start 2023

Bath used 848 tons of road salt in the 22/23 winter season. This is the lowest amount in recorded history.



**R safetytown**  
*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](mailto: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





# IN OTHER NEWS:



The University of Akron Field Station (UAFS) at Bath Nature Preserve is a living laboratory for the advancement of knowledge through ecological research, education, and stewardship of the natural world. With funds received through the 2023 Bath Volunteers for Service grant, the UAFS was able to purchase a trail/hiking wheelchair for youth and adults. This wheelchair allows for increased trail accessibility in the Bath Nature Preserve. Details on availability and use will be coming soon.

## reworks

Summit County Reworks will open it's Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center (HHWRC) for the season starting Thursday June 1. Located at 1201 Graham Road in Stow, the HHWRC will be open on Thursdays from 2-7pm from June 1 to September 28. Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes household products such as:

- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Oil-based paints
- Oils
- Pesticides

Bringing Household Hazardous Waste to the ReWorks' HHW Recycling Center prevents these harmful materials from entering the environment.

For more information on hazardous waste, visit [www.summitreworks.com](http://www.summitreworks.com) or call Reworks at 330-374-0383.

## BATH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Several 10' x 10' garden plots remain available at the Bath Community Garden. If you are interested in renting a plot, please contact the township at 330-666-4007 or email [stomazic@bathtownship.org](mailto:stomazic@bathtownship.org).

## SUMMIT COUNTY ASTRONOMY

### CLUB OBSERVATORY

Star gazing at Bath Nature Preserve is available on announced nights. Volunteers will be on site to help with equipment use. Visit the Summit County Astronomy Club website at <http://meetup.com/summit-county-astronomy-meetup> for additional details.

## BATH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Bath Township is beginning the process of updating the Comprehensive Land Use plan.

The first step is to create a steering committee to aid in the plan update. Bath is currently seeking individuals interested in serving on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee. To be considered, please email your contact information to William Funk at [wfunk@bathtownship.org](mailto:wfunk@bathtownship.org).

# WHAT YOU MISSED...



On April 15, 2023, Township Administrator, Vito Sinopoli, joined hundreds of volunteers from northeast Ohio and beyond to package food for worldwide distribution. The event took place inside the gym of Revere High School and was organized by Rise Against Hunger, a global movement to end hunger. In just a few hours the group created 120,000 meals to be distributed to communities in need.



On April 22, 2023, Bath Township in partnership with Richfield Village and Revere Local Schools hosted its annual Project Pride event. Volunteers were given road assignments throughout the community where they worked to clean up the debris along the roadside in that area. In addition, the local community had opportunities for yard debris disposal, aluminium can recycling, as well as a drug take-back location.



On April 29, 2023, University of Akron Field Station in conjunction with Bath Park Board and Bath Township hosted its third annual Spring into Nature event at Bath Nature Preserve. This free science and nature themed event was targeted at students in grades k-5 and featured hands-on activities focusing on educating them about the flora and fauna of Bath Nature Preserve.