



# BATH TOWNSHIP QUARTERLY

WINTER 2010

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

An official newsletter published by the Bath Township Board of Trustees  
as a service to Bath Township residents under the authority of the Ohio Revised Code, Section 9.03

## 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

### ***Bath Trustee Donald M. Jenkins Retires***



Don and Mary Jenkins

**A**fter retirement as Dean and Professor of Law from the University of Akron, School of Law, Donald Jenkins turned his attention to his community, Bath Township. In 1998, Mr. Jenkins was elected to the first of three 4-year terms as Bath Township Trustee. During his tenure, the trustees approved the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This set the stage for the township to provide an encompassing natural resource study and a set of design guidelines for the future. He led the campaign for the formation of a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) with the cities of Akron and Fairlawn, designed to preclude the annexation of township land. His passion for the protection of natural resources prompted his spearheading the Friends of Yellow Creek committee. He was also active in the enactment and implementation of the current Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

During his terms, he devoted his time to attending Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Bath Water & Sewer District Board's meetings, taking copious notes at each. He served on the Northeast Ohio Four-County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) general policy board and still serves on the Summit County Planning Commission.

The imprint left by Don Jenkins will carry Bath through the next twenty years assuring its residents country atmosphere living with controlled growth. \*



### ***Township Finances***

**T**ownships, unlike municipalities and the state, are unable to spend more than is received and budgeted. Fiscal year 2009 was a time of "wait and see" as property tax collections and distributions, which make up approximately 85 percent of the revenue the township receives, were anticipated.

In planning for a likely shortfall, each department was asked to reduce their budgets by 10 percent until revenues could be certified. Fortunately, the tax collections were on target and in August the 10 percent holdback was returned to each department.

During these uncertain economic times, the Fiscal Office and all the department heads have worked diligently to assure fiscal responsibility for the township.

The township:

- Engaged independent auditors to review the township's finances. They reported that the finances are in order.
- Received a Bond Rating Improvement from Moody's Investment Services.
- Reviewed 29 different contracts to reduce expenditures where possible.
- Reviewed Medical and Property Insurance Policies for cost savings.
- Received a Bureau of Workers Compensation 10% pre-

mium discount for attending Summit County Safety Council meetings, conducting drug free workshops, and participating in the 10-Step Business Plan.

- Implemented an improved time-keeping system to streamline the payroll reporting process. \*

### ***Two Trustees Elected***

**A**s a new decade begins in 2010, Becky Corbett begins a 4-year term as a Bath Township Trustee. Mrs. Corbett won election to the seat previously held by Don Jenkins (see related story) along with returning incumbent Jim Nelson, who begins his fourth term. Both join Elaina Goodrich on the township's governing board.

Becky has been a resident of Bath for 26 years and served as Bath's cemetery sexton for 13 years. \*



Becky Corbett



James Nelson



Elaina Goodrich

## Zoning

In 2009, the zoning inspector issued 116 permits, including 7 new residential dwellings, 17 residential additions, 6 business use certificates, and 23 sign permits. In comparison to 2008, zoning permits were down slightly more than twenty-five percent for 2009. New residential dwelling permits continue to be on the decline as the Township nears build out.

### 2009 Zoning Permit Summary

New Residential	7
Residential Additions	17
Accessory Structures	26
New Commercial	3
Commercial Additions	3
Sign Permits	23
Business Use Certificates	6
Major Subdivision	1
Minor Subdivision	3
Swimming Pools	5
Fences	18
Outdoor Storage/Displays	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>116</b>

The Zoning Commission reviewed and made recommendations for a commercial rezoning on Medina Road and a text amendment for multi-tenant signage for shopping centers. Both were denied by the trustees.

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard 29 cases last year. Grace Church was granted a conditional use approval for the expansion of the church offices and youth facilities on Ghent Road. The board reviewed site plans for a proposed new commercial building on N. Cleveland-Massillon Road. West Market Plaza was approved for multi-tenant signage for the shopping center on Medina Road. The Hammonds' subdivision on Ira Road and N. Hametown Road was granted conditional use approval for 13 lots.

The Appearance Review Commission reviewed 29 cases, many for new signs within the Township. The sign reviews included Holiday Inn replacement signs, David Levy & Associates new monument sign, and the replacement monument signs for the Western Reserve Playhouse. The ARC also reviewed a proposed new commercial building on N. Cleveland Massillon as well as the new subdivision known as The Hammonds.\*

## Administration

Environmental issues continued to be an emphasis throughout the year. The township:

- Participated in discussion with the North East Ohio Sewer District on possible assessments of properties in Bath Township.
- Supported the 2009 Year of the River.
- Opposed the Oil and Gas Bill that will further erode the rights of residents.
- Passed an audit on Phase II Storm Water Compliance. (see related story on page 5)

Community events remained a focus. The township:

- Continued the support of Project Pride.
- Honored veterans with a Memorial Day Observance.
- Honored Richfield Township and Village on their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Held a trustee meeting at Revere Senior High School where students participated.
- Installed and dedicated the Revere Campus Outdoor Weather Warning Siren.
- Supported the Bath Business Association with the open house and Wye Road bridge lighting.
- Conducted resident informational meetings on animal problems, drainage, and crime problems.

Technological updates created efficiency. The township:

- Developed the township newsletter in-house.
- Updated the township's Webpage and added capabilities to use the Web system in emergencies.
- Digitally scanned many of the township records for safe keeping.\*

## Solid Waste District

The Bath Township Solid Waste District continues to service a total of 2,467 customers, of which 238 use the garage door service. The negotiation of the 2009 contract resulted in no increase in fees for customers.

The current contract with Landmark Disposal is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2010. Therefore, the 2010 contract is currently being negotiated for the trash removal services in the township.

During 2009, Landmark collected 3,187.04 tons of solid waste and 356.22 tons of co-mingled recyclables.

An oil and tire drop-off event was held jointly with Copley Township and an application was made for a litter pick-up grant for the upcoming year.\*

## Comprehensive Plan Review

The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee began working toward its goals during 2009. The consulting firm of McBride, Dale, Clarion was hired. A special edition of The Quarterly featuring ten years in review was published in July which included a survey for residents to express their opinions concerning services and lifestyle conditions within Bath Township. The survey results were compiled and a kick-off meeting was held in September at Bath School. This gave the committee another opportunity to gather more information and opinions. The committee will be meeting in early February to finalize some topics prior to the drafting of the Comprehensive Plan Update.\*

### Fire

**B**ath Fire Department answered a total of 1262 emergency calls in 2009. Bath Center responded to 821 calls, Stony Hill responded to 372 calls, and 69 were dual station responses. During the year, the township had three house fires, a two-story garage fire resulting in a total loss, and a commercial fire at McDonald's Restaurant that caused \$150,000 in damages.

The township participates in reciprocal automatic response agreements with Richfield, Copley, Norton, Valley, and Fairlawn Fire Departments. These departments respond to first alarm fires in Bath Township, assisting with manpower and equipment needs during a fire emergency.

After 30 years of full time service, Staff Lieutenant Lyn Alison retired. Part-time employees Knute Galbraith, Dan McClelland, Ken Latkovic, and Charmaine Kamp left the department. During the year, three part-time volunteers have been added, Dan Zarcovacki, Brian Mynhier, and Dawn Hemphill. The department's roster includes 10 career fire medics, 24 part-paid volunteers, and 26 substitute contractual part-time fire medics.

With support from the trustees, Bath Fire Department Incorporated, and the community, a replacement EMS vehicle was ordered. The vehicle was delivered early this year. Total cost of the replacement rescue vehicle was \$135,877. This included trade-in of the old unit, \$25,000 from Bath Fire Dept. Inc., and funds received from

non-resident EMS billing. Three Lifepak-12 heart monitors were upgraded during the year thanks to a generous anonymous donation. This has greatly enhanced the ability to transmit 12-lead EKG's to area hospitals, cardiac catheterization laboratories, and to off-site physicians.

The joint fire prevention education program with Richfield Fire Department continues to be a success as it serves elementary students in the Revere School District. A program expansion is planned which will focus on dormitory and student apartment safety for future high school graduates. \*

### Police

**T**he Bath Township crime rate declined in 2009. A review of the criminal offenses measured by the FBI found an 11% reduction in reported crime. Categories that experienced a reduction were robbery, aggravated assault, theft, and stolen auto.

Burglary increased by one offense from 36 to 37. Bath Detectives solved several of these burglaries early in the year

when a Norton man was apprehended after a multi-jurisdictional crime spree.

Crime	2007	2008	2009
Homicide	0	0	0
Robbery	1	6	2
Rape	0	0	1
Aggravated Assault	1	4	0
Burglary	21	36	37
Theft	169	174	159
Stolen Auto	1	4	2
Arsen	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>201</b>

A citizen report of a suspicious person in the Shade Park neighborhood last spring resulted in the arrest of a man wanted for burglary.

Patrol officers responded to 7,922 calls for service. They investigated 451 traffic crashes and issued 983 traffic citations. Fifty-six persons were cited for drunk driving. Eight of the drunk driving charges were above the .17 alcohol level that has increased penalties.

Response to the crime of Domestic Violence is an important role of the patrol officer. They investigated 26 cases of Domestic Violence last year. There were 24 arrests made. Females were victims in 17 of the crimes. Males were the offender in 23 incidents. Eight of the offenders were juveniles.

Keeping the public informed about activity in the community was an important initiative in 2009. Access to police incident and traffic crash reports was made available on the Bath Township Website, [www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org). Criminal incidents and registered sex offenders are mapped for review on the CrimeReports icon. Residents can also receive notifications about activity by following the Police Department on Twitter or Facebook.

Bath Police credit citizen involvement in the community for the decrease in crime. Residents are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the Police Webpage at [www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org). \*

### Public Invited to Police Roll Call

Police Chief Michael McNeely invites the public to an afternoon shift roll call 3:00 p.m. on April 19, 2010 in the police training room.

Immediately following, at 4:00 p.m. will be the regular business meeting of the Bath Township Trustees.



New EMS Unit

## Bath Parks

The park season for 2009 was marked by several extraordinary events.

In April the Bath Park Board organized the first Rain Barrel Workshop. The event was well attended by 70 participants from Bath and surrounding communities with each purchasing and assembling one or two rain barrels. The event was hosted by the University of Akron at the Paul Martin Field Station in the Bath Nature Preserve.

On Election Day in May, a total number of 944 residents voted on a 0.75 mil renewal park levy. The result was the passage of the levy by 77%. The Bath Park Board and Park Levy Committee managed a campaign of no tax increase for funding of operations, maintenance, and replacement of existing equipment only.

The Revere Lacrosse Club once again hosted their annual LAX Fest, a one day multi-age group tournament. In June the Revere Baseball Softball Association hosted their annual Family Fun Day highlighting the use of the new batting cages at the Bath Baseball Park.

In July the annual Concert in the Park was held at the Bath Community Activity Center. The public was entertained by the "Emperors of Swing" with a two hour concert. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Bath Community Day Celebration was well attended with the largest crowd ever estimated at over 3000 attendees. Nadine Clar and the Bath Community Day Committee coordinated the day and had enough activities and food for the unexpectedly large crowd.

Lastly, in October Bath Township and the University of Akron teamed together to host a Stream Restoration Celebration which coincided with the University of Akron's annual Open House of the Paul Martin Field Station. The event showcased the forty acre stream bank and wetland restoration project of Bath Creek. Over 500 visitors attended and enjoyed hayrides to the stream restoration, a pumpkin patch, and a tent filled with area vendors including the Taiclet Rain Barrels. The stream celebration was well supported by the community - Ken Stewart's Lodge donated food, Cascade Auto Group donated vehicles to taxi the visitors, and Healthy Community/Healthy Youth supplied volunteers to help with face painting and to assist the visitors on and off the hay rides. \*

### 2009 Bath Park Scheduled Events

Baseball	1491
Cross Country	45
Football	55
Lacrosse	65
Rugby	20
Soccer	225
Shelter Reservations	88
Tennis	181
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2170</b>

## Heritage Corridors

The Bath Business Association and the Heritage Corridors Committee sponsored a Road Rally on July 19, 2009. It started at Bath School and ended at Hale Farm & Village where dinner was served. Participants rode both cars and bikes, using combined driving and navigating skills to locate and identify landmarks along the route. This was the second year that this event was planned. It is anticipated that one will be held this summer.

The Heritage Corridors of Bath Implementation Committee sponsored the Eighth Annual Barns of Bath Open House on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. This year's host was Betsy Rebar Sell of Shade Tree Barn. This event was created to acknowledge the historic significance of the barns and century homes throughout the community. Special recognition awards were given to: Hale Farm & Village for historic houses and barns, Tom and Bonnie Tubaugh for significant barn, Carolyn Hadrys for significant house, Victory Gallop for significant barn, Joyce Hamaker for historic house, Wheatley Automotive for significant business, and Betsy Rebar Sell for significant barn. Betsy Sell and Jenny Gaffney provided a dressage equestrian demonstration. \*



Hayride to Bath Creek

## Friends of Yellow Creek

The Friends of Yellow Creek (FOYC) members attended workshops and seminars and reported their information to the rest of the committee throughout the year. In August the FOYC again participated in Bath Community Day by providing a booth and handing out educational information about the group as well as clean water tips. This past year the group also submitted their input to the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee for the upcoming revision of the Comprehensive Plan. In October the committee hosted and provided an informational table at the Stream Restoration Celebration.

The committee's goals and objectives will continue to be addressing clean water practices, proper care of home sewage treatment systems and the nature of streams, and wetland protection. For more information visit the FOYC Website at [www.yellowcreekwatershed.org](http://www.yellowcreekwatershed.org). \*

### Service

John Peltier began his service to Bath Township in 1964 as a volunteer fireman. Throughout the years, he has also served as road superintendent, zoning inspector, and finally service director. He retired from the department in March after 30 years of service.



John Peltier



Michael Rorar and Robert Willson

The management of the department was restructured during 2009 with Robert Wilson being promoted to the position of Service Director and Michael Rorar taking the new position of Assistant Service Director/Park Director.

The Service Department handled over 160 residential requests throughout the township. More than 52 driveway culverts were installed, over 4,900 linear feet of ditching was completed, and over 19.7 lane miles of asphalt patching was done along township roads.

Some major projects were completed such as the seal coating of 18 roads, the pavement resurfacing of 6 roads, and the repair of 10 roads with concrete panels. In addition, engineering was completed for the future improvements to San Moritz Drive and the Arbour Green Development.

During the winter months of 2008 - 2009, Service Department personnel spent over 2,300 hours plowing while using over 3,600 tons of salt and over 5,500 gallons of fuel in order to control snow and ice on township roadways.

Bath Township's cemeteries had annual maintenance and upkeep performed throughout the year. A total of 21 burials were held in 2009. \*



### Storm Water Update

Bath Township officials have met the first 5-year Ohio Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System storm water permit requirements for small municipal systems (MS4). The permit requires Best Management Practices in six areas of compliance: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement/Participation, Illicit Discharge and Detection Elimination (Household Sewage Treatment Systems), Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Pollution Prevention Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Bath Township, a co-permit holder with Summit County's cities, villages and townships, completed the undertaking with flying colors and was the second community of the county-wide permit holders to be audited successfully.

The township is now entering into the second permit stage which becomes more complex in compliance and in reporting. In each Quarterly, the township will continue to inform its residents about how to keep water clean for future generations. \*

### Historic Preservation Committee

The Bath Township Trustees contracted with the firm of Benjamin D. Rickey & Co. to create a Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) nomination form for the entire township. The MPD documents the history and development of the township. Along with the MPD, the consultants prepared additional National Register nominations. These nominations include: the Ghent Historic District which is made up of seven buildings, the Peter Voris Jr. residence on Ira Road, Brookdale Farm on N. Cleveland-Massillon Road, and the Jeremiah Lambert residence on N. Cleveland-Massillon Road which is now the Louis & Partners offices. The goal of the consultants is that these nominations will be presented to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board in April 2010. \*



Historic Marker

### Free Services for Residents

Bath Township offers the following:  
Please call 330-666-3736

- Police Department**
- Safety Town
- Vacation house check
- Senior phone check

- Service**
- Driveway marker replacement

- Fire Department**
- Smoke detector check
- Blood pressure check
- CPR/first aid training
- Aluminun cans collection for Akron Children's Burn Unit

- Administration**
- "Life Line" for seniors/disabled meeting certain qualifications



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3864 West Bath Road • P.O. Box 1188 • Bath, Ohio 44210-1188

Office Telephone:  
330-666-4007

Fax:  
330-666-0305

[www.bathtownship.org](http://www.bathtownship.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Elaina E. Goodrich Trustee	James N. Nelson Trustee
Becky Corbett Trustee	Sharon A. Troike Fiscal Officer
William E. Snow, Township Administrator	

### Meeting Dates for Board of Trustees:

Tuesday, February 16, 2010	4:00 p.m.
Monday, March 1, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 15, 2010	4:00 p.m.
Monday, April 5, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 19, 2010	4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 3, 2010	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 17, 2010	4:00 p.m.

### License Fees Work For Bath

You can help improve roads in Bath Township if you specify that you are a Bath resident when registering a new vehicle or renewing a registration in person with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. If you renew your plates via mail, be sure your renewal application indicates 7765 Bath in the tax district name.

Indicating that you are a Bath resident also helps avoid extra fees that some communities add to registration costs.



## Bath Township Museum Has Successful Year

The Bath Township Museum has become an extraordinary cultural center used to educate the citizenry about the history and way of life in the township. Some of the achievements this year were:

- ☞ Merging the Bath Township Historical Society and the Bath Township Museum as a beginning to a strategic thinking process that is broadly collaborative and absolutely essential for the viability of the Bath Township Museum and the Stony Hill Schoolhouse Museum.
- ☞ Collecting and preserving Bath artifacts in a museum which is open to the public eight hours a week. Monday/Wednesday 9:00-11:30 a.m. and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- ☞ Organizing three interpretive and educational exhibits each hosting approximately 500 visitors, *Connecting to the Past: The Bath Nature Preserve*, a joint effort between the University of Akron and the Bath Township Historical Society; *Connecting to the Past: Bath Township Schools*; *Connecting to the Past: The Busy Life of the Farm Wife* through March, 2010.
- ☞ Organizing a library and research center about Bath Township and its families.
- ☞ Preserving Stony Hill Schoolhouse on N. Hametown Road as a museum.
- ☞ Hosting an ice cream social at the Stony Hill Schoolhouse.
- ☞ Publishing a book, How Transportation Influenced the Development of Bath Township.
- ☞ Presenting a cemetery tour and a schoolhouse tour.
- ☞ Raising sufficient funds to pay for annual operating and administrative expenses.
- ☞ Being recognized by the Akron Beacon Journal which listed the Bath Township Museum as one of the "Top Five Museums" in Summit County.



Schoolhouse Tour May 2009