

Bath Township
QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2024 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3



Photo by John Landis shows Aurora Borealis over Bath Pond



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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Meeting and event information is available on the township website. Please visit www.bathtownship.org and select **BATH COMMUNITY EVENTS** on the home page.

Heritage Corridors Speaker Series

- 7/9 7pm Franklin & Associates

Bath Gamma Garden Club Garden Tour

- 7/10 6pm

Bands on the Lawn featuring Ben Gage

- 7/14 4pm The Bath Church

Children of Eden

- 8/2-8/17 Western Reserve Playhouse

80th Annual Bath/Mini Trial Horse

Competition

- 8/9-8/10 Bath Pony Club, Allardale Park

Heritage Corridors Speaker Series

- 8/13 7pm Polka Dot Pin Cushion

26th Annual Taste of Earth

- 8/24 5-9pm Crown Point Ecology Center

Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival

- 8/30-9/1 10-5 Hale Farm & Village

Bath Gamma Garden Club Olive Oils

- 9/4 7pm Hale Farm & Village

Electronics Recycling

- 9/14 9-1pm Bath Elementary

Bath Business Association Road Rally

- 9/15 2pm Bath Baseball Park

22nd Annual Barn Social

- 9/18 6-8pm Bath History Museum

Barn Burner 5k Trail Race

- 9/21 North Fork Preserve of Bath

Barns of Bath Trolley Tour

- 9/22 12pm Western Reserve Playhouse

Bath Gamma Garden Club Fall Plants

- 10/2 7pm Hale Farm & Village

Fall into Nature

- 10/12 11-3 Bath Nature Preserve

Fall Festival

- 10/12 1-7pm Camp Christopher

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION HOURS

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

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
- Select HOW DO I
- Select APPLY FOR
- Select EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are updated as they become available.

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).....800-828-8171

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:

Sean F. Gaffney, President
sgaffney@bathtownship.org

Elaina E. Goodrich, Vice-President
egoodrich@bathtownship.org

Sharon A. Troike, Trustee
stroike@bathtownship.org

Fiscal Officer:

Jen L. Hardin
jhardin@bathtownship.org

FIREWORK REGULATIONS

Effective in 2022, Ohio reversed its long-standing prohibition on consumer-grade fireworks (referred to as 1.4G), now allowing eligible adults to purchase and discharge fireworks on specific dates. This change aligns Ohio with 26 other states. Previously, Ohioans could purchase both low-grade and consumer-grade fireworks but were only permitted to use the low-grade items in Ohio. Buyers had to declare in writing they would transport any consumer-grade fireworks out of state within 48 hours.

Now, as of July 1, 2022, anyone 18 and older can purchase and use fireworks on the following holidays:

- New Year's Day (12:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- Chinese New Year (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- Cinco de Mayo (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- Memorial Day weekend (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- Juneteenth (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- July 3, 4, 5, and surrounding weekends (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- Labor Day weekend (4:00 p.m. - 11 p.m. on the first Monday in Sept. and the preceding Saturday and Sunday)
- Diwali (4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
- New Year's Eve (4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.)

Fireworks can only be discharged on private property with the owner's express permission. Aerial devices must be a minimum of 150 feet from spectators; non-aerial devices require a 50-foot minimum. Communities, including townships, can restrict or ban fireworks through legislative action. Currently, Bath Township has not taken legislative action to restrict the discharge of fireworks.

To address safety, the law prohibits those under the influence of alcohol or drugs from using fireworks. Violations are considered first-degree misdemeanors, which could possibly lead to disorderly conduct charges.

Safety concerns are significant, with serious injuries being all too common every year. Safety recommendations include:

- Don't allow children to play with fireworks.
- Use fireworks outdoors, away from flammable materials including homes.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Don't relight malfunctioning fireworks; soak in water and then throw them away.
- Ensure others are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Ensure no part of the body is extended over fireworks when igniting.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place and keep unused fireworks away from where other fireworks are ignited.
- Don't light fireworks in containers, especially glass or metal.
- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.

The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission advises igniting one firework at a time, never throwing them, and not carrying them on one's person or in clothing.

Licensed sellers must have available an informational pamphlet for consumers and provide free or reduced-price safety glasses at the time the fireworks are purchased.

Bath Township and its safety forces emphasize prioritizing safety when handling fireworks.

Barns of Bath Trolley Tour



Put on your straw hat and bib overalls and sign up for the Barns of Bath Trolley Tour. On September 22nd, the Western Reserve Playhouse will open at noon for a visit from the historical character, Ira Lanson Underwood, who lived to be 100. At 12:30, he will take us through the playhouse backstage and explain the history of this theatrical barn. At 1:00 two trolleys will take 60 passengers to continue the tour of the Barns of Bath Trail. At each stop a historical character related to the barn will explain the history of each property.

At Crown Point, Mary Ann Stoller will greet us with an overview of the family farm. Next, Andrew Hale, one of the first settlers to Bath Township, will introduce the historical beginnings of the township. At the Hammond-Cranz homestead Nettie Cranz will speak about her ancestors. The next stop brings us to the O'Neil barn and the interesting character, William O'Neil, connecting Bath to the rubber industry. On to the Historic Town Hall and the Tool Barn. Lillian Shoemaker presents a history of township government, the local cemetery and an agricultural display in the tool barn and museum. The Welton/Barker barn and the historic Ghent hamlet are described by Sarah Davis Bisbee. The final stop is the Lemmon Barn on the North Fork Preserve of Bath where we meet Betty Lemmon as she greets arrivals to the Happy Hollow Farm, which includes the Greenberry Riding Centre.

The trolleys return to the Western Reserve Playhouse around 3:00. Tickets are \$25 per person and registration can be done online by visiting bathtownship.recdesk.com or in person at Bath Township Administration, 3864 W. Bath Road.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

- The 80th Annual Bath Horse Show, hosted by Bath Pony Club and Bath Volunteers for Service, will be held on August 10-11 at the Bath Pony Club grounds in Allardale Park. This is a free family-friendly event (donations and sponsorships are welcome). More details to come at www.bathvolunteersforservice.com.
- Bath Business Association Road Rally will take place on September 15, 2024. All proceeds go to the BBA Scholarship Fund. Join the fun after the rally for the optional \$10/person chicken dinner. Registration forms available at Bake Shop in Ghent or online at bathbusinessassociation.com.



There's nothing quite like outdoor grilling, one of the most popular ways to cook food and enjoy the outdoors. However, grills can pose fire hazards and cause burn injuries if not used properly. Following these simple safety tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable grilling experience.

- Propane and Charcoal grills are for outdoor use only.
- Position the grill well away from your home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Remove grease and fat buildup from the grills and grill trays.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Use electric or chimney starters to ignite charcoal when possible.
- If using starter fluid, choose only charcoal starter fluid and never add it or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- After grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.

For Propane Grills:

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

Happy grilling and stay safe!

Transient Vendor

Regulations:

What Residents Need to Know...

Bath Township requires all transient vendors (commonly known as door-to-door salesmen) to obtain a permit before conducting business within the township. However, it's crucial for residents to understand that these permits do not equate to an endorsement or approval by Bath Township.

Transient vendors must register and obtain a permit from the Bath Township Zoning Department. The process involves completing a Transient Vendor application, submitting a BCI background check, and paying a \$150 registration fee in cash or money order. Permits are valid for 90 days, with a maximum of three permits issued to an individual per year.

Once vendors have obtained a permit, they can operate door-to-door from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays but are prohibited from doing so on weekends and holidays. Vendors must respect "No Solicitation" signs and the township's "Do Not Knock Registry." Written materials must not be left on the ground or in mailboxes but may be placed on porches or stoops.

While these regulations aim to maintain order and safety, residents should still be cautious when dealing with transient vendors. Here are some tips to help avoid scams and untrustworthy business practices:

1. Research the Vendor: Check reviews and ask for references, especially from neighbors who will verify work.
2. Verify Credentials: Ask to see their permit and identification as well as proof of insurance.
3. Document Agreements: Ensure all terms are in writing.
4. Avoid Pressure Tactics: Take your time making decisions, do not feel pressured to commit immediately.
5. Report Suspicious Activity: Notify township authorities of any concerns by calling 330-666-3736.

By understanding these regulations and remaining vigilant, residents can help ensure a safe and trustworthy community environment. For more information, visit the Bath Township Zoning Department or call 330-666-4007.

"Do Not Knock" Program

Bath Township residents can now register for the "Do Not Knock" Program, which places their address on a list provided to transient vendors when they obtain a permit from the township. To register, visit bathtownship.recdesk.com, create a profile, then navigate to Programs. This program is free but is exclusively for Bath Township residents. Ensure your peace and privacy by signing up today! (Non-Profit, Religious, and Political individuals and organizations are excluded from "Do Not Knock" regulations.)

Discover Bath Barns

SPEAKER SERIES



SUMMER, 2024

TIM FRANKLIN

PRESIDENT & LEAD DESIGNER, FRANKLIN & ASSOCIATES - DESIGN/BUILD

"BARN AGAIN: UNDERSTANDING OPTIONS FOR SAVING BARNs"

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 9TH

TIME: 7:00PM-8:00PM

LOCATION: THE FRANKLIN RESIDENCE
3433 W. BATH RD. AKRON, OH 44333

SUZI PARRON SMITH

AUTHOR

"FOLLOWING THE BARN QUILT TRAIL "



DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 13TH

TIME: 7:00PM-8:00PM

LOCATION: POLKA DOT PINCUSHION
3807 BRECKSVILLE RD. #8 RICHFIELD, OH 44286

PERFECT PLANTS FOR WET AREAS

If you have wet areas on your property, don't despair. The Friends of Yellow Creek, a Bath Township organization devoted to issues involving Yellow Creek, has prepared a brochure entitled "Perfect Plants for Wet Areas." It lists a variety of readily available trees and shrubs that do well on frequently wet or soggy land. Photos and plant characteristics are included on the brochure to help you make an informed selection that will be right for your property. These plants will reduce soil moisture as well as beautify the area at minimal expense. Most plant and tree varieties listed will grow rapidly and require minimal care. These plants are a simple solution to what can be an aggravating and potentially expensive problem. To receive a paper copy of the brochure, please email Kasha Brackett at kbrackett@bathtownship.org. Brochure information is available online by visiting bathtownship.org/FriendsofYellowCreek.

<p>Deciduous shrub. Grows 5-13 feet in wet areas and shade. Produces edible flowers and fruit used for preserves, wine, and homeopathic medicine. Attracts bees and birds.</p>	<p>Elderberry</p>  <p>Deciduous. Relatively fast-growing to about 70 feet. Prefers sunny locations. Large white flowers produce distinctive long, narrow "cigar" seed pods. An excellent shade tree due to broad leaves.</p>	<p>Catalpa</p> 
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In 2014, Bath Community Fund (BCF) was created to respond to community needs, help the less fortunate, support local nonprofits, and preserve

Bath's historical and environmental legacy. Established as an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation, BCF is a permanent endowment where assets and charitable gifts will be preserved forever.

Through the generous donations of hundreds of community members, BCF has grown to more than \$1.25 million and reinvested more than \$250,000 back into the Bath community through annual grants to local nonprofits. Last year, BCF awarded \$50,000 in grants to 17 local nonprofits carrying out the mission of the fund, making a difference in lives throughout Bath. During its next grant cycle, which will run September 1st through

FIREARM USE IN BATH TOWNSHIP

Bath Township's rural setting lends itself to outdoor sporting activities, leading to concerns about open shooting of firearms. Legally, township authority to regulate shooting is limited to the Ohio Revised Code and Summit County ordinances. Unlike municipalities, townships can only enforce state and county-provided regulations. Ohio law does not prohibit discharging firearms on private property within townships, including Bath, as long as it's done safely and legally by the property owner or individuals with permission of the property owner.

Hunting on private property follows rules from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Revised Code. In Bath Township, hunting is banned within half a mile of any of the township parks. The police can address hunting violations near parks and provide guidance to those found in violation of the law.

Safe shooting on private property requires awareness of nearby homes and structures. Property owners must avoid shooting toward houses, vehicles, roads, or other structures, regardless of the existence of a backstop. Discharging firearms within 100 yards of a cemetery, as well as upon or over public roads, on the grounds of schools, churches, or inhabited dwellings is prohibited by R.C. 2923.162.

Those firing firearms must understand that property damage or injury can lead to criminal liability. The Bath Township Police Department will respond to safety concerns, however, it is the responsibility of the shooter to ensure their actions are safe and legal.

October 1st, the fund will accept proposals from nonprofit organizations that enrich both the Bath and Revere communities and improve residents' quality of life.

In celebration of the fund's 10th anniversary, a "For Bath, Forever" anniversary campaign will formally get underway in mid-August to raise additional funding and increase the donor base. We invite fund donors, supporters, grantees and interested community members to save the date for BCF's Annual Meeting on Aug. 15 at Crown Point Ecology Center. Guests will celebrate the fund's anniversary and help grow its legacy of charitable giving. More information and instructions on how to RSVP will be available online at bathcommunityfund.org soon.

To learn more about Bath Community Fund, visit bathcommunityfund.org or contact Jody Konstand at jmkmedia@msn.com or by calling 330-618-4477.

HERITAGE BARN TRAIL NOW OPEN!

The Discover Bath Barns Committee announced the opening of the Heritage Barns of Bath Trail on June 19 at a ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Western Reserve Playhouse. Bath Township Trustees, local dignitaries, and barn owners celebrated the new trail which brings focus to the agricultural traditions of the area and the barns that are critical to that history.

The Heritage Barns of Bath Trail is a self-driven route that follows a portion of the existing 39 miles of the Heritage Corridors of Bath's Scenic Byway. The Byway was officially designated by the Ohio Department of Transportation in 2000 and is one of only 27 in the state. The new trail was created to share the history of a collection of barns, most of which are considered Heritage structures, in existence for more than 100 years.

Available on the Bath Township website at bathtownship.org/discoverbathbarns, you can find a map of the trail which features nine stops. The trail begins at the Heritage Corridors of Bath Wayside Exhibit, 950 N. Cleveland-Massillon Road. The next 8 stops include an array of barns of differing designs and uses throughout the years.

The barn stops on the trail include: the Bath Township Museum and Tool Barn, the Lemmon Barn (Bath Township's North Fork Preserve), the Underwood Barn (Western Reserve Playhouse), the Swigart Barn (Crown Point Ecology Center), Hale Farm and Village Barns (Western Reserve Historical Society), the Hammond/Cranz Barns (Cuyahoga Valley National Park), the O'Neil Barn



(Summit County Metro Parks) and the Welton/Barker Barn. The last barn is in the Hamlet of Ghent and offers visitors the chance to explore local shops and restaurants.

The committee has developed several exciting events to celebrate the opening of the trail, including a speaker series and quilt competition. More details about these events and more are available online.



ANNUAL BARN SOCIAL

The 22nd annual Heritage Corridors of Bath Barn Social is scheduled to take place at Bath Township Historical Museum and Town Hall on September 18th, from 6 to 8pm. Those who are interested in attending can RSVP by phone 330-666-4007 or through email at reception@bathtownship.org.



Hosted By:  **SUMMIT e-WASTE**
RECycling Solutions
 Don't Hoard the Cord!

**Be Responsible Today For
A Better Future Tomorrow**



SEPT 14, 2024. 9 AM - 1 PM.
BATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 1246 N. Cleveland Massillon Rd. Akron, OH 44333.

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.

**ZONING BOARDS SEEK
NEW MEMBERS**

Bath Township is seeking individuals interested in serving on one of the township zoning boards. There are currently openings on both the Zoning Commission and Appearance Review Commission. Interested individuals are asked to email Bath Township Planning Director/Zoning Inspector, William Funk at wfunk@bathtownship.org.



Bath Parks Exciting Updates

Bath Township is thrilled to share updates on the significant park projects completed in 2023 and those planned for 2024. Township employees have been working diligently to enhance the parks, ensuring they remain beautiful, functional, and enjoyable for all residents and visitors.

Highlights from 2023:

- The township introduced RecDesk, a user-friendly scheduling software that provides a streamlined experience for both township employees and residents when reserving park facilities and enrolling in programming.
- Bath Nature Preserve: Upgrades were made to the rental home located within the preserve, transforming it into a desirable residential rental property.
- North Fork Preserve: The park saw substantial improvements, including the enhancement of trails and the official opening of two loops of the triple-loop trail system.

Exciting Plans for 2024:

- Bath Nature Preserve: Pavement will be replaced on Hickory Farm Lane, extending from Ira Road to the University of Akron Field Station. An 800-foot section of Bath Pond Path will be elevated to accommodate both the local beaver population and visitors who enjoy hiking in the area.
- Bath Community Park: Planned improvements include repairing the tennis/pickleball courts, enhancing the Story Walk Trail, and replacing the scoreboard.
- North Fork Preserve: The development of the trail network will continue, along with the beginning of a renovation project to convert the existing home into a community meeting and rental space.
- Bath Hill Park: Plans include constructing a new 24' x 28' shelter and installing a new swingset.

The township is committed to maintaining and improving our parks, making them a source of pride and enjoyment for the entire community!