

Bath Township
QUARTERLY

WINTER 2024 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1





SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

There are many great opportunities to volunteer and serve on committees in Bath Township. The township is actively seeking volunteers to assist with the following boards:

- **Friends of Yellow Creek**
- **Bath Township Museum**
- **Discover Bath Barns Project**

For more information, contact the Township Administration Office at 330-666-4007 or reception@bathtownship.org

DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION.....	330-666-4007
FIRE (NON- EMERGENCY).....	330-666-3738
SERVICE/PARKS.....	330-665-5066
POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY).	330-666-3736
RUMPKE (Solid Waste).....	800-828-8171
SIMPLE RECYCLING.....	866-835-5068
SUMMIT CO. BUILDING.....	330-630-7280
SUMMIT CO. ENGINEER.....	330-643-2850
SUMMIT CO. FISCAL.....	330-643-2632

EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1

REPORT A CONCERN

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

Bath Township Elected Officials

Board of Trustees:

Sean Gaffney, President
sgaffney@bathtownship.org

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

Sharon A. Troike, Trustee
stroike@bathtownship.org

Fiscal Officer:

Gregory Thewes
gthewes@bathtownship.org

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LOOKING AHEAD...

- Spring into Nature with STEM at Bath Nature Preserve -April 27, 11am-3pm
- State of the Parks at Bath Nature Preserve -May 16, 6pm
- Memorial Day Observance Ceremony at Veterans Memorial -May 24
- Bath Community Garage Sale - June 8, 8am-3pm
- Bath Art Festival at Bath Community Park - June 15, 10am-5pm
- Run to the Sun at Bath Nature Preserve -June 16

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
- 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
- Click on HOW DO I at the top right
- Select APPLY FOR
- Select EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Positions are updated as they become available.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION HOURS

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

3864 West Bath Road - 330-666-4007

RESTORATION, RENOVATION, AND REUSE

As we look ahead to 2024, an important project is set to expand public access to a newly acquired property and enhance the Bath Township community. The North Fork Preserve Project will involve several aspects, including renovation of a former residential home, promising an opportunity for increased public meeting space.

With architectural designs now completed through the work of Peninsula Architects, the project is set to advance to the next phase. As early as spring 2024, the designs will be submitted for competitive bidding, marking a significant milestone in the construction process.

The residential home renovation aims to integrate updated construction design and engineering standards, while preserving the rich historical character of the property. Peninsula Architects worked closely with township officials to develop designs that balance the property's mid-century aesthetic while incorporating improvements that align with modern standards of safety and comfort for public use.

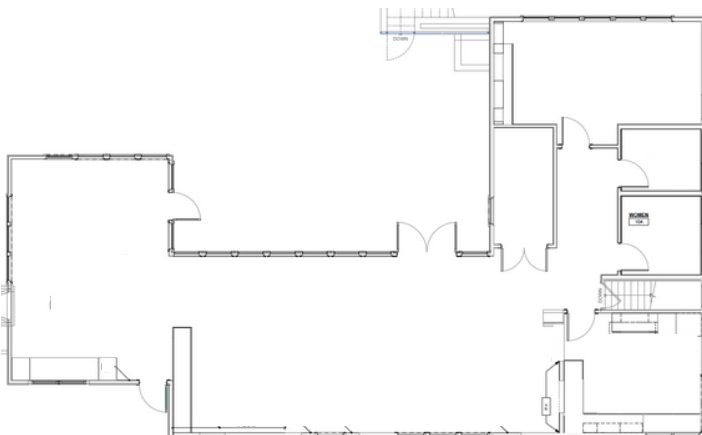
The replacement of exterior/interior doors and some windows in the home stands out as an important element in the renovation. This not only enhances the visual appeal of the property, but also contributes to improved energy efficiency, reflecting a commitment to sustainable design principles.

Beyond the aesthetic enhancements, the North Fork Preserve Project renovation is set to transform the interior functionality of the residential space. Stabilizing the floors opens up the possibility of creating spacious meeting rooms for public use. This approach aims to make the renovated home a hub for community engagement and gatherings, redefining it as a multifunctional space that serves the broader community.

While the residential home renovation will be the focus for 2024, the North Fork Preserve property also has another key component, a large barn with exciting opportunity. Although specific plans for the barn are yet to be determined, preliminary efforts have been made to enhance its structural integrity. The removal of a loft area, replacement of windows, and priming of the exterior siding are indicative of the preservation approach being taken to maintain this historical structure. The barn holds immense potential to become a focal point of the preserve.

The township has pursued and obtained a \$120,000 State Capital Grant, along with a \$120,000 Community Development Block Grant both of which will be applied to the home renovation. The township continues to actively seek other funding opportunities for projects at the North Fork Preserve.

As the year unfolds, the North Fork Preserve Project will bear witness to the township's preservation and enhancement initiatives. Beyond the physical structure, it represents a commitment to preserving the essence of the heritage of the North Fork Preserve, while creating spaces that resonate with the present. The residential home renovation and the barn's future transformation are poised to redefine the North Fork Preserve, setting the stage for a 2024 filled with promise, creativity and a commitment to the community.



Bath Township Historical Museum Volunteers Wanted

Do you have a passion for history? Are you intrigued by stories of Bath Township's past, the people who shaped it, the businesses that thrived, and the traditions that have endured over time? If so, you are invited to become a vital part of the Bath Township Historical Museum by volunteering your time and skills.

The museum is a treasure trove of local history, entirely run by dedicated volunteers who share a common love for preserving the heritage of the Bath community. The museum is reaching out to you, its neighbors, to join in this noble endeavor.

The Bath Township Historical Museum plays a crucial role in maintaining and showcasing the rich history of the area. It's a place where the past comes alive, and each artifact tells a story. By volunteering, you contribute to the preservation of Bath Township's heritage for future generations.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a tech wizard, a meticulous organizer, or someone with a knack for storytelling, there is a role for you. There are various opportunities that cater to different skills and interests.

Please email Museum Administrator Lee Darst at bathtownshipmuseum@roadrunner.com if interested.

Available Volunteer Roles:

Librarian:

Organize books, historical publications, and create a filing system for articles/photos.

Genealogist:

Manage family histories and organize relevant newspaper articles/obituaries.

Newspaper Gleaners:

Review newspapers for historical articles relevant to Bath Township, and assist Librarian in filing.

Computer Operator:

Assess and recommend upgrades to computer systems, maintain records, and create exhibit signs.

Technology Specialist:

Assess and recommend upgrades to audio/visual equipment, organize living histories, and assess equipment needs.

Display Manager:

Arrange artifact displays, prepare visitor information pamphlets and displays, and maintain exhibits.

Historian/Research:

Develop a two-year exhibit plan and create the official museum brochure.

Help in preserving Bath Township's history!

Email bathtownshipmuseum@roadrunner.com

Bath Township Historical Museum opens on April 14th for the 2024 season!



Spring into Nature with STEM



The University of Akron Field Station, Bath Township Park Board, and Bath Township are planning the 3rd annual spring event, Spring into Nature (SPIN) with STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) to be held on Saturday, April 27 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 6th 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.

DISCOVER BATH BARNs!

Did you know . . . barns are the official state structure in Ohio and that there are over 60 barns in Bath, with some of them listed on the National Register of Historic Places? It's true!

The next time you take a drive around our community, slow down and start discovering Bath's many barns! They are everywhere – poll barns, horse barns, carriage barns, dairy barns, bank barns and more. Barns are an important part of our Township history, and they are worth preserving and enhancing.

This year, the Heritage Corridors of Bath Committee is putting a spotlight on Bath's barns through the Discover Bath Barns project. Bath Township resident, James McClellan, is leading the effort to showcase Heritage Barns in Bath, barns that are 100+ years old.

The stories of these barns, the families who built them and how they have been used throughout the years will be celebrated through a year-long series of events that will culminate with Bath Township's Heritage Week scheduled to take place in September.

Beginning on September 18, a series of planned events include the annual Barn Social, which will

be held at the Bath Township Historic Town Hall, a traditional Road Rally, a ribbon cutting on Discover Bath Barns Heritage Barn Trail, a Barn Burner 5k Race, and a Barns of Bath Trolley Tour of the township's historic sites.

In the short term, there are plenty of other ways to find out more about the historic barns of Bath. Kicking off Discover Bath Barns activities will be a 3-part speaker series featuring the history and heritage of barns, barn quilts and barn preservation, a Barn Quilt competition and Barn articles in the Bath Country Journal, and Home 330 magazine. The Bath Township Historical Society's Museum exhibit titled; "Agriculture: The Foundation of Bath Township" will also add excitement to Bath's "barn-mania" year.

To receive information and invitations to Discover Bath Barns events, please send your contact information to reception@bathtownship.org with a Subject Line titled; Discover Bath Barns.

For more information about the Heritage Corridors of Bath and the Discover Bath Barns project, visit <https://www.bathtownship.org/> and click the "Heritage Corridors of Bath" tab.

Comprehensive Plan Update



The Trustees have approved a contract with Envision Group to assist the newly appointed Comprehensive Plan steering committee that is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a planning tool that looks at the various elements of the township and creates a series of broad policies to help guide future decisions regarding land use, including the physical, economic, environmental, and social aspects of the community.

Bath originally adopted the comprehensive plan in 1998 and went through an extensive update which was completed in 2011.

The steering committee will be holding meetings throughout the year and will also be hosting public events designed to get input from the community. It is anticipated that this project will take about a year to complete. Please visit www.bathownship.org/compplan for an overview of the project and updates to the process including meeting dates and public forums.

WILL A FIRE TRUCK FIT DOWN YOUR DRIVEWAY?

In the event of a fire in your area, firefighters may need to reach your home. If firefighters cannot safely access your home, they will find an alternative way to get to you that may take longer - and when fighting fire, every second counts.

HELP FIREFIGHTERS REACH YOU

To enable firefighters and other emergency vehicles to locate and reach your home quickly it's important to establish a safe route with adequate driveway access.

Here are a few steps to prepare your driveway for emergency access that could make all the difference in reducing damage to your property during a wildfire or other emergency event.

STEP 1:

Position your reflective address sign to be visible from the road from either direction day or night.

STEP 2:

Make your home visible from the road so firefighters can tell if it's safe to enter.

STEP 3:

Clear trees, branches or brush from your driveway so it is at least 12 feet wide and that there is at least 13.5 feet of clearance to allow fire trucks access.

STEP 4:

Be sure your driveway's surface is firmly packed and is able to support the weight of emergency vehicles even in the spring when the ground is soft.

STEP 5:

Check that your driveway is free of gates, fence posts or other obstructions that could restrict access.

STEP 6:

Create a space at the end of your driveway with adequate room for an emergency vehicle to turn around once it reaches your home if possible.



Ensure your driveway has adequate height and width

CLEARANCE

from vegetation for large emergency vehicles.

Based on standards by the National Fire Protection Association. Talk to your local Fire Chief to learn about local driveway ordinances.



Sheetz/Texas Roadhouse Update

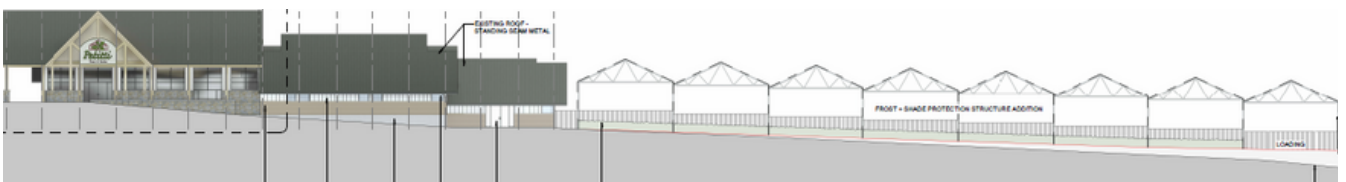
The developer of the proposed Sheetz gas station and Texas Roadhouse restaurant at the existing Holiday Inn site is still seeking county and state approvals for the impacts to traffic along Medina Rd. and Springside Dr. This process requires approval from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Summit County Engineer as Medina Rd. is under the control of ODOT and Springside Dr. is a county road.

Map Amendment: 395 Springside Dr.

The Bath Township Zoning Commission recently received an application for a map amendment from Petitti's Garden Center to rezone the property at 395 Springside Dr. to allow for retail use. The property, which is located at the southwest corner of the Springside Dr. and N. Cleveland Massillon Rd. intersection, is currently zoned B-3 Office, Research and Limited Business District and has housed the Physicians Weight Loss offices for several years. Petitti's is proposing to enhance the existing building by adding a main entryway to the northeast section of the building and a large, covered shade structure for plants on the western portion of the site. In order for retail sales to be permitted, the property requires a map amendment or what is commonly referred to as a rezoning.

The applicant has requested a change to a B-2 Community Business district classification which is just south of the property and includes Lowes as well as a majority of the retail uses within the Montrose area of Bath.

The application has received recommendations for approval from both the Township Zoning Commission and the Summit County Planning Commission after holding public hearings with time for public comment. The next step in the process is approval or disapproval by the Bath Township Board of Trustees. This process includes a public hearing followed by a period designed for additional public comment. Once those have been completed the Board of Trustees will pass a resolution to approve or deny the rezoning request from Petitti's.





Save the Date!

2024

Safety Town

June 10-13th at Richfield Elementary School
Morning and afternoon sessions will be available.

Program will be open to all incoming Kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year who reside in the Revere Community.



Registration information coming soon!



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

BIRD WALK

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH @ 8AM
NORTH FORK PRESERVE OF BATH
4400 EVERETT ROAD

The new North Fork Preserve of Bath is now officially designated a "Birding Hotspot" by eBird, the #1 app for tracking bird activity!

Bath Parks volunteer John Landis has been performing the Greater Akron Audubon Society Summer Bird Census at the North Fork Preserve for the last four years, long before it was open to the public.

On April 20th, Mr. Landis will lead a bird walk to identify some of unique characteristics of the habitat and look and listen for some unique forest birds, including year-round residents and birds that have returned for summer breeding. All interested residents and visitors are invited and welcome to join Mr. Landis on Saturday, April 20th at 8AM, starting at the North Fork Preserve parking lot located at 4400 Everett Road. The approximately 90-minute leisurely walk will cover one of the loops in the preserve and walk along the meadow. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. The event and any updates will also be posted on the "Visit Bath Parks" Facebook page.



Photo Credit: John Landis

ECLIPSE

APRIL 8, 2024

The eclipse will be an exceptionally rare event in our lives. The last one in Bath Township was 200 years ago and the next one will not be until 2090! The Summit County Astronomy Club is prepared! The observatory, located within Bath Nature Preserve at 4160 Ira Road, will have 10 solar equipped telescopes and over 1,000 viewers to hand out. The observatory, with a grant received from the Bath Community Fund, now has a powerful camera that will allow one of the scopes to live stream the eclipse on YouTube. Details of that will be announced soon. Friday through Tuesday leading up to the event, the observatory will be open as much as possible. To find out about our events, please join our website at www.meetup.com/summit-county-astronomy-meetup. Notices of events for the eclipse and all ongoing programs will be updated on the website.

On April 8, parking is likely to be an issue. Please carpool and consider walking to the observatory. During the eclipse, the temperature will drop about 15 degrees, so dress appropriately for the weather and the drop in temperature. Lastly, hope for a clear or mostly clear sky! In case of a total washout, the observatory will be showing a stream on our large screen TV from a site with a clear sky. Bring snacks and refreshments as there will be a limited supply and egress out of the park could be a challenge.

The observatory is truly a world class facility. It is the 9th most popular Meetup group for amateur observatories in the world. All the programs are free and open to the public. Children under seven need close supervision due to the equipment and facilities.

See you at the observatory for our programs and the eclipse!

Clear Skies,
John Shulan