

Bath Township
QUARTERLY
WINTER 2025 | VOLUME 32, ISSUE 1





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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.

- 1/7 Bath Business Association: 5:30pm Bath Township Trustee’s Meeting Room; regular meeting
- 1/8 Heritage Corridors of Bath: 4:30pm Bath Township Trustee’s Conference Room; regular meeting
- 1/16 Bath Park Board: 6pm Location TBD, check Bathtownship.org
- 2/9 Chillin’ on the Hill: 1-4pm Bath Nature Preserve Sledding Hill (weather dependent)
- 2/11 Discover Bath Barns: 5pm Bath Township Trustee’s Meeting Room
- 3/12 Heritage Corridors of Bath: 4:30pm Bath Township Trustee’s Conference Room; regular meeting
- 3/20 Bath Park Board: 6pm Location TBD, check Bathtownship.org

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:

Laura Tuttle
ltuttle@bathtownship.org

NEW: Text-to-911

Summit County residents, including Bath Township, now have a new way to contact emergency services: by sending a text message to 911. This service is designed to assist individuals who cannot make a voice call, such as those with speech or hearing impairments or anyone in a situation where calling might not be safe. While a voice call remains the fastest and most effective way to communicate with emergency responders, Text-to-911 is a valuable tool when speaking aloud isn't an option.



How Does It Work?

To use Text to 911, simply:

1. Enter “911” in the recipient field of your text message.
2. Describe the emergency clearly and include the exact address or location.
3. Press send.
4. Be ready to answer follow-up questions from the dispatcher and remain engaged until help arrives.

Key Facts About Text to 911

- Texting Requirements: You must have a text-capable device and an active wireless service plan. Messaging apps like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger cannot be used for this service.
- Emergency Use Only: Text to 911 should only be used for urgent situations. For non-emergency concerns, call 330-666-3736.
- No Media: Photos, videos, and emojis are not supported. Stick to plain text and avoid abbreviations or slang. For example, write: “55-year-old man fell, need ambulance at 123 W. Market St.”
- Language Translation: The system can translate non-English texts, enabling dispatchers to communicate effectively in multiple languages.
- Potential Delays: Text messages can be delayed by 5 to 10 seconds. If Text-to-911 is unavailable in your area, you will receive an automatic reply instructing you to call 911.

Why Voice Calls Are Still Best

Whenever possible, make a voice call to 911. Speaking directly with a dispatcher allows for faster, more detailed communication, enabling them to provide assistance more efficiently.

Text-to-911 is a valuable addition to emergency services in Summit County, offering an alternative for those who need it most. However, it is not a replacement for traditional voice calls. Stay informed, and remember: Call if you can, text if you can't.

Wayside Exhibit Marks Its 10th Anniversary

2025 marks a special milestone for the Wayside Exhibit as it celebrates 10 years of enriching the Heritage Corridors of Bath, an Ohio Scenic Byway in Bath Township. Since its unveiling in 2015, the exhibit has become a cornerstone for residents and visitors seeking to explore the area's rich history, scenic beauty, and cultural significance.

To commemorate the anniversary, a new sign will be installed in 2025, guiding visitors to the recently established Heritage Barn Trail. Launched in 2024, the trail highlights iconic historic barns along the byway, offering a unique opportunity to connect with Bath's agricultural heritage while enjoying its picturesque landscapes.

The celebration coincides with the Heritage Corridors of Bath Committee's update of the five-year ODOT Corridor Management Plan. As part of this process, the committee is exploring ideas for future enhancements and new uses for the property to ensure the byway remains an engaging destination for years to come.

The 39-mile Heritage Corridors Scenic Byway links Bath's historic hamlets—Ghent, Bath Center, and Hammond's Corners—with landmarks like Hale Farm & Village, the Bath Nature Preserve, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Along its route, early homes, barns, cemeteries, and mills illustrate the township's rich history.

The Wayside Exhibit, which was funded exclusively with grants, serves as both a gateway and a buffer along Cleveland Massillon Road, preserving open land while protecting waterways such as the North Fork of Yellow Creek. Sustainable features, including pervious pavement and bio-retention drainage, mitigate flooding while enhancing the area's natural beauty. Picnic tables, benches, and trails provide spaces to enjoy the quiet beauty of the area.

Whether revisiting familiar sites or discovering new landmarks, the 10th anniversary of the Wayside Exhibit promises to be an inspiring chapter in Bath's ongoing story. Residents and visitors alike are invited to join in celebrating this legacy and looking ahead to an exciting future along the Heritage Corridors Scenic Byway.



PRESERVING OUR PAST:

Discover Bath Barns Looks Ahead to 2025

The Discover Bath Barns Committee made significant strides in celebrating Bath Township's agricultural and architectural heritage. A major highlight was the launch of the Heritage Barns of Bath Trail, a 19-mile self-guided route featuring over 60 barns, including nine stops showcasing historic structures, some over a century old. The trail debuted with a ribbon-cutting event and was enhanced by narratives at locations like the Crown Point Ecology Center and Bath Township Historical Society.

Complementing the trail, the committee hosted a Quilt Square Competition, resulting in two barn quilts now displayed at local landmarks. A Speaker Series featuring experts on barn preservation attracted over 160 attendees and spotlighted the township's rich rural traditions. These efforts earned the committee awards from the Summit County Historical Society and the Ohio House of Representatives.

Building on 2024's success, Discover Bath Barns Chair James McClellan promises even more in 2025.

Key future initiatives include:

- Adding an informational sign to the Heritage Corridors of Bath Wayside Exhibit.
- Continuing the Speaker Series and Quilt Square Competition.
- Launching new events like a National Barn Day celebration, a Heritage Barn Award, and a Barn Quilt Workshop to guide barn owners in creating barn quilts.

These efforts aim to deepen community engagement, preserve rural history, and strengthen township pride.



Discover Bath Barns welcomes new volunteers and barn owners to join the initiative. Email discoverbathbarns@gmail.com to get started!



The Ohio Township Association Scholarship application period is open through 1/31/25. To qualify for one of the five \$1,500 scholarships awarded, applicants must meet the following criteria: be a high school senior; have at least a "B" average (cumulative) or equivalent; be a U.S. citizen and a resident of an Ohio township; and plan to attend a university, training program, or vocational school in Ohio.

To apply for this scholarship, applicants must attend at least one official meeting of township officials and complete the attendance form, which can be found on the scholarship page on the OTA website, with signatures from at least two elected officials. There are several additional requirements, which are also outlined on the scholarship page on the OTA website: <https://www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program>

Let
It
Snow

BATH TOWNSHIP IS READY FOR WINTER!

As winter approaches, Bath Township has a plan in place to ensure roads remain safe and accessible during snowy weather. Here's what you need to know to help keep our community running smoothly:

Winter Snow Parking Ban: When snow reaches 2 inches or more, or at the discretion of the Service Director, a parking ban will be in effect. Keeping streets clear ensures snowplows can navigate safely and quickly. Your cooperation makes a big difference!

Priority Areas: Main intersections, hills, and essential routes like school bus and emergency service areas are cleared first to keep critical paths open during snowstorms.

Road Responsibilities: Bath Township maintains 62 lane miles of roads, while the Summit County Engineer handles another 62 miles, including key routes like Cleveland Massillon, Everett, Yellow Creek, and Granger Roads.

How Snow Removal Works:

The township uses a mix of plowing, liquid brine, and salting to keep roads clear. Brine, applied before a storm, helps prevent ice from bonding to roads, making plowing more effective. Timing, temperatures, and precipitation rates all impact the process.

What You Can Do:

- Move vehicles off the streets during snow events to help plow crews do their job effectively.
- Stay informed about parking bans and road conditions through the Bath Township's website, Facebook page, or local media updates.

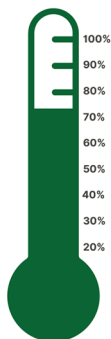
The Bath Township Service Department has trained its team and ensured all equipment is in top shape for winter. With careful preparation and your cooperation, we can all navigate the snowy months safely and smoothly. Let's work together to keep Bath Township safe this winter!

Bath Township Comprehensive Plan Update Nearing Completion

In the Fall of 2023, Bath Township Trustees appointed a volunteer group of residents to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to update the township's 2011 Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document for the future land use throughout the township with the intent of focusing on areas that are experiencing the greatest potential for development or the need for potential redevelopment while protecting the rural-like character of Bath. The township contracted with Envision Group to facilitate the process through a series of steering committee meetings and public involvement workshops. Envision Group is nearing the end of this project and has completed a draft of the plan for public review and comment. The plan will be on the township website at bathtownship.org/complan and public comments are encouraged.



Goal: \$400,000



Meeting both goals will help to ensure the perpetuity of BCF as it moves into its second decade of making a difference in the lives of people in the Bath community.

The campaign committee is reaching out to current and potential donors, organizing informational gatherings, enlisting the support of community stakeholders, encouraging community and business involvement, and spreading the news about the fund. The committee is also planning a late winter gathering to introduce the fund to rising leaders in the Bath community, as well as a celebration this summer to commemorate the fund's first 10 years in Bath.

Bath Community Fund was established in 2014 by a small group of Bath residents hoping to build a legacy of grantmaking to nonprofit organizations in the community. With a collective donation of \$10,000, BCF was created as an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation.

As an endowment fund, Bath Community Fund is dedicated to responding to community needs, helping the less fortunate, supporting the many local nonprofits, and preserving Bath's historical and environmental legacy. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors, BCF has grown to almost \$1.5 million while reinvesting more than \$300,000 in grants to nonprofits serving the Bath community. Most recently, the fund awarded 22 grants totaling \$50,000 this past December.

As of Dec. 1, 2024, the fund had already achieved nearly 75% of its \$400,000 fundraising goal. With your support, we can reach and even surpass our fundraising goal! To join the campaign, visit www.akroncf.org/give/bcf or scan the QR code below.

In celebration of Bath Community Fund's 10th anniversary, the "For Bath, Forever" Anniversary Campaign was launched last August with the goal of raising at least \$400,000 for the endowment and engaging 100 new donors.



To learn more about Bath Community Fund and how you can be part of this community resource, visit www.bathcommunityfund.org or contact Jody Konstand at jmkmedia@msn.com or 330-618-4477.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bath Township's, Bath Nature Preserve houses the University of Akron Field Station. In addition to hosting University of Akron students for classes and programs, the University of Akron Field Station also provides no-cost educational outreach to tens of thousands of K-12 students! This includes over 6,000 interactions with Revere Local School and Old Trail School students since 2021!

Bath Township is proud to have the University of Akron Field Station in our parks, and we are grateful for all the community members that have joined the UAFS Friends Group to make this important educational opportunity possible for so many students! If you are interested in learning more about the UAFS Friends Group or how you can get involved, please visit <http://uakron.edu/giving/uafs> or contact Dr. Roketenetz at ldr11@uakron.edu.

Bath Community Park Master Plan



The township has begun the process of creating an updated masterplan for Bath Community Park with assistance from the consulting team at Environmental Design Group (EDG). EDG was selected to head this project following site visits, interviews, and requests for proposals from interested firms who specialize in design and planning. The masterplan for Bath Community Park will be a comprehensive review that focuses on the existing uses and challenges being faced, and the plan will provide township leadership with long-term solutions on how to efficiently utilize and manage the park.

One of the main drivers for this project is the increasing popularity of pickleball which is a paddle sport that takes aspects from tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. The township currently has 4 tennis courts at Bath Community Park, two of these courts are considered dual use intended for both tennis and 4 pickleball courts. Bath has been exploring the development of dedicated pickleball courts as well as keeping tennis courts within the park.

The masterplan project will help guide the future development of pickleball courts and provide a better understanding of how the existing uses and proposed future uses will be balanced together on the site. Some of the other challenges being faced include parking issues, restrooms facilities concern, and accessibility issues within the park. With the objective of adding dedicated pickleball courts the parking issues that occur during peak hours need to be addressed. Currently there is limited parking near the existing courts, and the connectivity to the larger parking area and facilities can be inconvenient at times. By taking a holistic approach, looking closely at the current layout of the park and potential future uses and layout, trustees feel that improvements can be made to the park experience for our residents and users of the amenities.

This masterplan process will begin in January with the intention of having a completed plan in the fall. The township and consulting team will be working closely with the different user groups and interested parties to help us better understand the functionality of the current spaces within Bath Community Park. Most future development or modifications to the park will be done in phases overtime as there are costs associated with most of these projects. Once a draft of the plan is completed it will be made available for public comments.