Bath Township QUARTERLY

FALL 2026 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 4



BATH TOWNSHIP
1818

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.

- 10/2 Western Reserve Playhouse: 7:00pm Broadway Bingo CaBARet
- 10/3 Crown Point: 10am-4pm Fun on the Farm: All Abilities Fall Fest
- 10/4 Crown Point: 12-1pm Summer Sound Bath Series
- 10/7 Hale Farm & Village: 7-9pm Bath Gamma Garden Club; Moon Garden
- 10/10 Bath Nature Preserve: 11am-3pm Fall into Nature; annual fall festival
- 10/11 Crown Point: 10-11am Seasons on the Land: Monthly Walk
- 10/11 Western Reserve Playhouse: 2pm Five Bucks Series
- 10/18 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Early Bath Churches
- 10/25 Western Reserve Playhouse: 2pm Five Bucks Series
- 11/4 Hale Farm & Village: 7pm Bath Gamma Garden Club; The Art of Bonsai
- 11/8 Crown Point: 10-11am Seasons on the Land: Monthly Walk
- 11/13-22 Western Reserve Playhouse: 8pm Fri./Sat., 2pm Sun. A Touch of the Poet
- 11/13 St. George's Fellowship Center: 5:30 BVS Annual Trivia and Taco Fundraiser
- 11/15 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Bath Township Schools
- 11/18 Crown Point: 6:30-7:45pm Rooted Conversations Speaker Series
- 11/19 Bath United Church: 12:30-6pm Bath Volunteers for Service Blood Drive
- 11/27 Wye Road: 5:30-7pm Bridge Lighting and Santa's Arrival
- 11/29 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Century Homes of Bath, I
- 12/5-6 Western Reserve Playhouse: 2pm Five Bucks Series
- 12/20 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Century Homes of Bath, II

TOYS FOR TOTS

Bath Fire Department will once again be partnering with Toys for Tots by hosting a collection site for toy drop off. Toys should be new, unwrapped, and appropriate for anyone toddler through teenage. Toys can be dropped off at Bath Township Fire Station located at 3864 W. Bath Road beginning on November 1st.

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

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION HOURS

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

BATH TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of Trustees:

Sharon A. Troike, President
stroike@bathtownship.org

Sean F. Gaffney, Vice-President
sgaffney@bathtownship.org

Elaina E. Goodrich, Trustee
egoodrich@bathtownship.org

Fiscal Officer:
Laura Tuttle
ltuttle@bathtownship.org

BATH PARK BOARD AND
UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FIELD STATION
PRESENT

FALL INTO NATURE

A **FREE** FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

OCTOBER 10TH FROM 11 AM - 3 PM

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FIELD STATION
AT BATH NATURE PRESERVE
4240 IRA ROAD

- 12:00 & 1:00 AKRON ZOO MOBILE
- 1:30 BLESSING OF THE DOGS
- 2:00 INSECT COLLECTION WALK
- 2:30 BIKE GIVEAWAY DRAWING

- SOLAR VIEWING
- PUMPKIN CARVER
- FOOD TRUCKS
- FACE PAINTING
- HAYRIDES
- GUITARIST
- OBSTACLE COURSE
- SCARECROW BUILDING
- PUMPKIN DECORATING

SPONSORS:

- UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FIELD STATION
- BATH PARK BOARD
- LINDA VAN FOSSEN
- THE BOWERS FAMILY
- BATH TOWNSHIP
- WALMART
- LOWES
- BATH GAMMA GARDEN CLUB
- BATH VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE
- CASCADE AUTO GROUP

BRINGING BATH TOGETHER, ONE TRADITION AT A TIME

For more than two decades, the Bath Business Association has helped bring the Bath community together through events, activities and programs that benefit residents throughout the township. One of its most beloved traditions is the annual Wye Road Bridge Lighting and Santa Arrival, held each year on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Families and neighbors gather at the bridge to welcome Santa as he arrives aboard a Bath Fire Department sleigh, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate, and officially kick off the holiday season together. The 22nd annual event on Friday, November 27th, will begin at 5:30 pm with light refreshments near the Bake Shop in Ghent at 800 Wye Road. Santa is expected to make his appearance at 6 pm.

The Bridge Lighting is just one of several ways the Bath Business Association contributes to the community. Each year, the BBA organizes events such as the Road Rally and the community-wide Garage Sale, bringing residents and local businesses together while raising funds for the Association's annual scholarship program. Those scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors who reside in Bath Township, helping support their education beyond high school.



The BBA also provides opportunities for local businesses to connect with one another and work together to support Bath's rural and historic character. Its events and activities help strengthen the sense of community that makes Bath a special place to live and work.



The Bath Business Association is currently looking for residents, business owners and employees who can contribute an hour, an afternoon, or take on a larger leadership role. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping with the Road Rally
- Garage Sale planning and prep
- Wye Road Bridge Lighting
- Managing publicity and social media
- Coordinating social events
- Supporting membership & fundraising
- Serving as an officer

No prior board experience is necessary. You just need a willingness to get involved and help support the Bath community. To learn more or volunteer, please email info@bathbusinessassociation.com.



CONGRATULATIONS, BATH COMMUNITY FUND!

Bath Community Fund reached a long-sought milestone of achieving more than $2 million in the fund's endowment in July! This achievement ensures BCF will continue to make a difference in Bath, supporting local nonprofits, responding to changing community priorities, and making meaningful investments in Bath for generations to come.

BCF was established in June 2014 as an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation with a collective $10,000 donation from seven couples. Since that time, hundreds of donors have supported the fund, building its endowment to that $2 million level. At the same time, the fund has awarded more than $350,000 in grants to local nonprofits serving the Bath community. Through these grants, BCF has helped to preserve Bath's historical and environmental legacy, enrich our local arts and cultural landscape, support youth, education, and recreation, and address important social-service needs.

This milestone belongs to the fund's donors and supporters. They believed in the power of giving back and investing in this place we call home. BCF is deeply grateful for their generosity and trust. Together they are creating and building a legacy of philanthropy to make Bath an even stronger, more vibrant community.

To learn more about Bath Community Fund, its 1818 Legacy Society, its Forever Bath Circle of Caring or how to be part of this community resource, visit bathcommunityfund.org, scan the QR code, or contact Jody Konstand at jmkmedia@msn.com or 330-618-4477.

Bath COMMUNITY FUND
An Akron Community Foundation Fund



Area students have the hands-on opportunity to learn about nature and the environment thanks to one of the many Bath Community Fund grantees, The University of Akron Field Station in the Bath Nature Preserve.

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holidays are a time for family, friends and festive decorations—but they also bring an increased risk of home fires. A few simple precautions can help keep your holiday season safe.

When decorating, choose flame-resistant or flame-retardant decorations and keep them away from heat sources. Make sure you use lights only as intended for indoor or outdoor use, and replace strings with worn cords, damaged insulation or loose connections. Use clips rather than nails to hang lights so cords are not damaged.

If you're entertaining, test your smoke alarms and make sure guests know your home's fire escape plan. Keep candles, matches and lighters away from children and pets, and never leave cooking unattended on the stovetop. Smokers should smoke outside and keep smoking materials away from children.

Before leaving home or going to bed, blow out all candles and turn off holiday lights. More than one third of home decoration fires are started by candles and half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

ROAD AND BRIDGE LEVY RENEWAL

Bath Township voters will see an important election measure on the November 3, 2026, ballot: a renewal of the existing 2.0-mill road and bridge levy with a 1.4-mill increase, for a total of 3.4 mills. The levy is one of two property tax levies that support the Bath Township Service Department.

If approved, the levy would provide additional funding for road construction and improvements, personnel, equipment, materials and other operating costs. It would also help support essential services such as snow and ice removal and other year-round road maintenance.

The need for additional funding is driven by multiple factors including the increasing cost of providing basic road services and the growing number of Bath Township roads that need significant improvement.

Bath Township maintains approximately 62 center lane miles of township roads. A 2025 road evaluation found that 42% of township roads are in good or excellent condition, while the remaining 58% are rated fair, poor or failed. This means that more than half of the township's roads will require attention as the township works to maintain and improve its road system.

In 2025, the Service Department received approximately $2.59 million in dedicated revenue:

- Current expiring 5-year levy: $1.17 million
- Continuous road levy: $1.08 million
- Motor Vehicle License Tax: $33,000
- Gas Tax: $259,763
- Permanent Motor Vehicle License Tax: $45,871

In 2025 , the Service Department's total expenditures were approximately $2.17 million. These funds support the employees wages/benefits, materials, equipment and the day-to-day operations necessary to maintain township roads throughout the year.

However, maintaining the existing road system is only part of the challenge. The cost of raw materials, equipment, fuel, maintenance and other supplies has increased, while the township also needs to complete more road resurfacing and improvement projects to address the condition of its roads.

If approved, the proposed 3.4-mill road and bridge levy is projected to generate approximately $2.29 million annually. The township would continue to receive approximately $1.08 million from its existing continuous road levy along with the gas tax and motor vehicle license tax revenues. That would provide approximately $3.71 million in annual Service Department revenue, based on current estimates:

- Proposed 3.4-mill levy: $2.29 million
- Continuous road levy: $1.08 million
- Gas Tax: Approximately $260,000
- Motor Vehicle License Taxes: Approximately $79,000

The additional revenue would not simply fund routine operations. It would give the township greater capacity to address the backlog of roads requiring resurfacing and other improvements while continuing to provide essential services such as snow and ice removal, road maintenance and equipment replacement.

The Service Department currently includes nine full-time and two part-time employees, in addition to the Service Director, Assistant Service Director and two administrative assistants who also work with our Parks and Cemetery operations. Maintaining this workforce and the equipment needed to support it is essential to providing year-round road services.

Recent changes to Ohio's property tax laws have also changed how levies appear on property tax bills. Under the current calculation, the proposed 2.0-mill renewal and 1.4-mill increase is expected to cost property owners approximately $94 per $100,000 of Fiscal Officer's Market Valuation. The actual effective cost may vary based on changes to Ohio's property tax rollback and other provisions of the state's tax system.

On November 3, Bath Township voters will decide whether to renew the existing 2.0-mill levy and increase it by 1.4 mills. With 58% of township roads currently rated fair, poor or failed, addressing the condition of the road system will require sustained investment over time. The proposed levy would provide additional resources to address rising operating costs, maintain essential services and allow Bath Township to keep pace with the need for road resurfacing and improvements throughout the community.

MAKE THE MOST OF FALL AT THE LIBRARY

Looking for ways to stay active as the weather turns cooler? It's a great time to discover something new at the Fairlawn-Bath Branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library. In addition to a wide variety of family programs, the library offers many adult programs throughout the fall, with opportunities to learn, connect and explore new interests.

💻 Technology

Get more comfortable with your technology through one-on-one assistance and programs covering everything from smartphones and iPhone storage to using the library's digital resources through Libby and Hoopla.

📚 Books

Join fellow readers for adult book discussions featuring a variety of contemporary fiction and opportunities to discover your next great read.

🌿 Special Interests

Explore topics beyond the traditional library experience, including genealogy and historical newspapers, farming and conservation resources, and other opportunities to learn something new.

Whether you're looking for a new book, need a little help with technology or want to explore a new interest, check out what's happening this fall at the Fairlawn-Bath Branch. Visit the Akron-Summit County Public Library website, scan the QR code below, or contact the Fairlawn-Bath branch at 330-666-4888 for program dates, registration and additional offerings.

LEARN MORE

Winter Snow Removal: What Residents Need to Know

When winter weather arrives, Bath Township's Service Department works to keep township roads safe and passable. The Township uses a combination of plowing, liquid brine and salt to manage snow and ice. Weather conditions, pavement temperature and the timing and rate of precipitation all impact how well these methods work.

Winter Snow Parking Bans are enforced when snow accumulation reaches 2 inches or more, and/or at the discretion of the Service Director. When the ban is in effect, all vehicles should be removed from township roads. Keeping streets clear of parked vehicles allows plows to operate more efficiently and safely and helps crews clear roads as quickly as possible.



The Service Department maintains 63 centerline miles of township roads. During snow events, crews prioritize hills, main intersections, and routes critical to school buses, emergency services and other essential traffic before moving to other areas.

An additional 62 centerline miles of roads within Bath Township are maintained by the Summit County Engineer, not the Township. These include major roads such as Cleveland Massillon Road, Everett Road, Yellow Creek Road and Granger Road. County-maintained roads are generally identified by painted lane and edge markings. The Summit County Engineer is responsible for snow and ice removal on these roads.

The Township will announce when a Winter Snow Parking Ban is in effect or lifted and will provide updates on winter weather and road conditions through the Township website, Facebook, TextMyGov and local media.

To sign up for TextMyGov text alerts, please text "Bath Alerts" to 91896.

SEASONAL CHANGES IN BATH PARKS

There has been a lot happening in Bath Township's parks this year, with several projects underway to improve accessibility, maintenance, and the overall experience for residents and visitors.

At the Bath Nature Preserve, a new concrete pad was added next to the Bath Community Garden creating two additional parking spaces. The new spaces will make it easier for gardeners, volunteers, and visitors to access the garden.

Township crews have also been working at the trailhead near the front parking lot of the Bath Nature Preserve. The footpaths in the area were adjusted to make the trailhead easier to maintain, and new grass was planted to improve the appearance of the site. A concrete pad was also added for picnic tables. In the future, there are plans to plant shade trees in the area, providing a comfortable place for visitors to sit and enjoy the preserve. The site will also be used to plant trees that are purchased through the Township's Living Tree Program.

Another addition to the preserve is the new West Ridge Trail, recently completed by the Parks Department, at the end of Beefy's Trail. The trail is now open and connects Beefy's Trail with the Bath Pond Path. While the trail was originally developed for equestrian use, hikers are also welcome to enjoy the new trail.

Park personnel recently took some time to measure several of the routes around the new trail to give visitors a better idea of the distances. The West Ridge Trail itself is 0.26 miles. A loop using the West Ridge Trail and Beefy's Trail is 0.63 miles. For those looking for a longer route, the distance from Hickory Farm Lane and Beefy's Trail to the West Ridge Trail, continuing to the Bath Pond Path and returning to Hickory Farm Lane, is 1.04 miles. The new trail gives both hikers and equestrians another opportunity to explore and enjoy the Bath Nature Preserve.

Work is also underway at Bath Baseball Park, where the Township has begun a multi-year renovation of the baseball fields. It had been several years since the fields received a major reset, so it was time to begin making improvements to the playing surfaces. The work is intended to help with drainage, improve the condition of the fields, and make them easier to prepare and maintain moving forward.

Earlier this spring, fields #2 and #5 were renovated. The work included removing and replacing the existing baseball mix, leveling the fields to help with drainage, and reestablishing the lip between the playing surface and the outfield.

The renovation work will continue this fall with fields #3 and #4 scheduled for improvements. The plan is to continue into the spring of 2027 with fields #6 and #7, followed by field #8, which is currently planned for either fall 2027 or spring 2028.

All these projects are part of the ongoing effort to take care of Bath Township's parks and make improvements where they are needed. Whether it is adding parking at the community garden, improving a trailhead, creating a new trail, or renovating our baseball fields, these projects help ensure that our parks remain places where residents can enjoy the outdoors, participate in recreation, and spend time with family and friends.

Bath Township appreciates everyone who visits and enjoys the Township parks and looks forward to caring for these community spaces for years to come.



MAJOR PARK RENOVATIONS

NORTH FORK PRESERVE

Progress is being made on the planned driveway, parking, and stormwater improvements at North Fork Preserve. The township is working with the Summit County Engineer to finalize the stormwater plans and address permitting requirements. The project is expected to move forward soon, with some adjustments to the original plans, including a reduction in the originally planned expanded driveway width and minor modifications to the site plan and stormwater retention.



The new plans call for slightly shifting the location of the barn and making adjustments to the proposed use. Improvements to the barn are planned to ensure that it is structurally sound and to convert it into an open-air shelter that would be used in a manner similar to other shelters in Bath parks. The preserve remains closed to the public at this time.

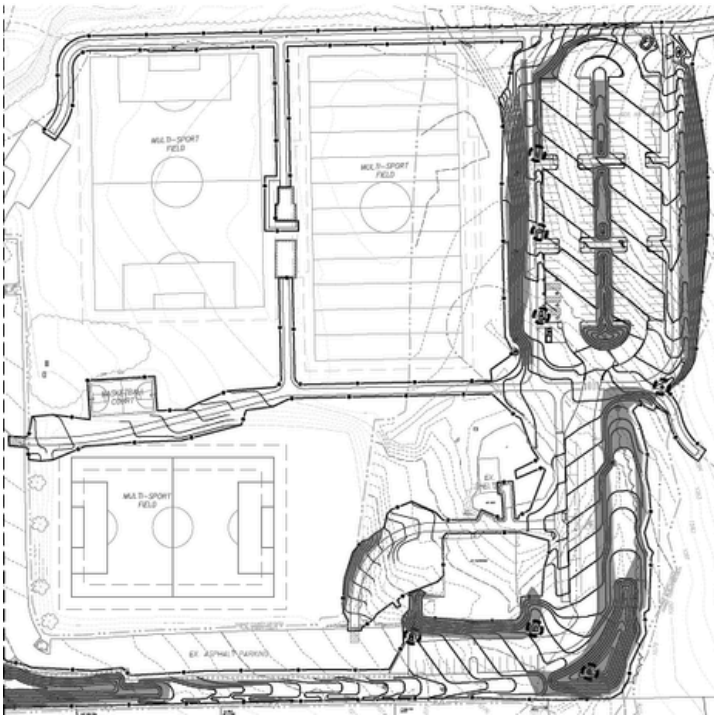
Plans for the existing home remain under review, and no decisions have been made regarding future improvements to or removal of the structure. The township continues to evaluate options and remains committed to considering public input and the interests of the broader community, including neighboring property owners. The township appreciates the thoughtful feedback that has been received and will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available.



BATH COMMUNITY PARK

At Bath Community Park, planned parking and stormwater improvements remain on hold while the stormwater management plan is revised. The Summit County Engineer did not approve the stormwater system included in the original design. Bath Township, Environmental Design Group, and the Summit County Engineer are working together to develop an updated plan that addresses the county's required modifications to the design.

The park will remain open while this work continues. Once the revised plans are approved, the project will move forward with construction planning and bidding. Due to the delay in permitting, the original project timeline has shifted. The township anticipates moving forward with this project in the spring of 2027.



TOWNSHIP ZONING UPDATE

The township has begun the process of reviewing and updating the Zoning Resolution to ensure that it complies with current Ohio Revised Code regulations and the recently adopted 2025 Bath Township Comprehensive Plan. Wendy Moeller of Compass Point Planning has been selected to assist the Township with the update process. Ms. Moeller is a community planner with 30 years of planning and zoning experience working with communities across the United States. She is very familiar with Bath Township having previously worked on the 2014 Zoning Resolution review and update.

The process kicked off with a workshop that included the Township's three zoning boards: the Appearance Review Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Zoning Commission. The workshop, led by Wendy Moeller and Township zoning officials, focused on reviewing each article of the current Zoning Resolution and highlighting areas of concern and changes in Ohio law.

Following the meeting, the consultant finalized the Zoning Resolution Audit and began drafting the amended resolution, which the Zoning Commission will review throughout the update process.

The Township does not anticipate any major changes to the Zoning Resolution, only minor procedural changes and adjustments to the regulations. The project is expected to be completed in early 2027.

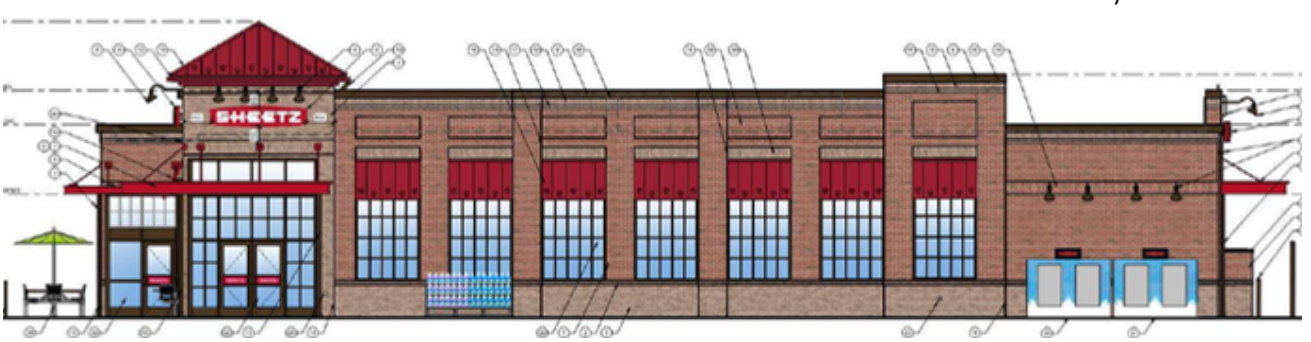
COMPASS POINT
ENVISION • PLAN • IMPLEMENT

Information related to township planning and zoning is available on the township website. To find online applications, the Township Zoning Resolution, most recent Comprehensive Plan and more, please visit bathtownship.org/planning.

SHEETZ UPDATE:

Earlier this year, the Township received a proposal to redevelop the former Dimitroff Furniture store site at the intersection of Ghent Rd. and I-77 into a Sheetz convenience store. The proposal required two conditional use approvals and two variances from the Bath Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). At their June 21 meeting, the BZA denied the variance request to exceed the maximum building footprint and size for the convenience store.

Sheetz, along with Visconsi Land Co., which is the developer of the site, appealed the BZA's decision. The appeal process for a BZA decision begins with the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. The Court has received the appeal and assigned a judge to the case. The Township has submitted the records, and the next step is the filing of briefs from the Appellants (Sheetz) and the Appellee (Bath Township). The Township expects a ruling on this matter in late fall or early winter.



COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Bath Township is supported by a variety of committees and boards playing an important role in shaping the community and advising leadership. Below you'll find the boards and committees currently seeking interested residents and highlighting many ways to get involved. For questions or to express interest, please send an email to Bill Funk wfunk@bathtownship.org.

APPEARANCE REVIEW COMMISSION

Members are appointed by the Township Trustees and are tasked with reviewing site plans, building elevations, and signage for commercial projects and to make recommendations.

ZONING COMMISSION

Members are appointed by the Township Trustees and are tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on zoning text amendments and proposed changes to the township zoning map.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Members are appointed by the Township Trustees and are tasked with reviewing and deciding on variance requests and conditional uses in accordance with the Zoning Resolution.

HERITAGE CORRIDORS OF BATH

The Heritage Corridors of Bath is a designated Scenic Byway in Ohio, encompassing 39 miles of scenic Bath Township roadway. This committee was developed to assist in preserving the historic and scenic byway of the township.

BATH PARK BOARD

An independent 501 (c)(3) organization working as a liaison group in an advisory capacity to Bath Township Trustees for the betterment and preservation of the township parks. The Park Board sponsors several educational activities and events to create awareness of and encourage the use of Bath parks.

BATH APPOINTS NEW FIRE CHIEF

Bath Township Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment of John Rodriguez as Bath Township's new Fire Chief. Rodriguez has been serving as Interim Fire Chief since the retirement of former Fire Chief Rob Campbell earlier this year and brings nearly three decades of experience with the Bath Fire Department to his new role.

Rodriguez began his career as a part-time firefighter with the Copley Fire Department in 1994. He joined the Bath Fire Department as a part-time firefighter in September 1997 and was hired full-time one year later. During his career with Bath, Rodriguez has continued to take on increasing responsibilities, serving as a Lieutenant beginning in 2012 and as Assistant Fire Chief beginning in 2023.

His experience extends well beyond the Bath. Rodriguez has been a member of the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team since 1995 and the Summit County Fire Investigation Team since 1998. He also served as president of the fire union from 2001 until his promotion to Assistant Chief in 2023. Since 2006, Rodriguez has also served as a police officer with the Copley Police Department.



After nearly 30 years of service to Bath Township, Rodriguez is looking forward to continuing that commitment as Fire Chief. His extensive experience in emergency response, fire investigation, hazardous materials, law enforcement and department leadership provides a broad background as he takes on the responsibility of leading the Bath Township Fire Department.

Please join the Trustees and the Township in congratulating Chief Rodriguez on his appointment and welcoming him to his new role.



get YOUR TICKETS

SCAN HERE

BATH TOWNSHIP HALLOWEEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

FD/PD OPEN HOUSE: 3-5PM

TRICK OR TREAT: 5-7

3864 W. BATH ROAD