

Bath Township

QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2026 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3



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



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• Save the Date:
Community Events

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.

- 7/10 Crown Point: 6-8:30pm Meadow Music; Morning Star Band
- 7/11-12 Hale Farm & Village: 10am-4pm Music in the Valley Folk & Wine Festival
- 7/17 Crown Point: 6-8:30pm Meadow Music; Swizzle Stick Band
- 7/17-26 Western Reserve Playhouse: 8pm Fri /Sat, 2pm Sun; Godspell
- 7/19 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Early Industries
- 7/24 Crown Point: 6-8:30pm Meadow Music; Blue Lunch
- 7/31 Crown Point: 6-8:30pm Meadow Music; Richfield Circus
- 7/31 Western Reserve Playhouse: 7pm Broadway Bingo CaBARet
- 8/1 Crown Point: 6:15-9:30pm Dead at Harvest: A Prohibition Era Farm Mystery
- 8/8-9 Hale Farm: 10am-5pm Annual Civil War Weekend
- 8/9 Western Reserve Playhouse: 2pm Five Buck Series
- 8/16 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Early Bath Twp Gov't
- 8/22 Crown Point: 5-9pm Bet for the Farm Taste of Early Fundraiser Gala
- 8/23 Western Reserve Playhouse: 2pm Five Buck Series
- 8/30 Bath Township Museum: 2pm Sunday Sessions; Building Bath Roads
- 9/4-6 Hale Farm: Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival
- 9/11-27 Western Reserve Playhouse: 8pm Fri/Sat, 2pm Sun; Mainstage Season
- 9/16 Victory Gallop: 6-8pm Annual Barn Social by Heritage Corridors of Bath
- 9/19 Bath Elementary: 8am-12pm Bath Township Annual Electronics Recycling
- 9/20 Stony Hill Schoolhouse: 12-3pm Bath Historical Society Ice Cream Social
- 9/20 Bath Township Museum: 2 pm Sunday Sessions; Bath Township Cemeteries
- 9/20 Crown Point: 3pm Bath Business Association America 250 Road Rally

WEBSITE UPGRADE

A recent initiative of Bath Township has been to improve communication to residents. The township is excited to launch the next chapter of modernization efforts with a newly redesigned website.

If you spot missing information or broken links, contact Bath Township at reception@bathtownship.org or by calling 330.666.4007

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

Property Taxes Remain a Major Topic in Ohio

A statewide effort to place a constitutional amendment before Ohio voters to eliminate property taxes is unlikely to appear on the November 2026 ballot. Supporters have collected approximately 305,000 signatures but need about 415,000 valid signatures to qualify. At the same time, state lawmakers have recently approved several changes aimed at addressing concerns about rising property taxes while maintaining funding for local services. One of the most significant changes is the elimination of replacement levies, which local governments previously used to adjust revenue collections as property values increased over time.

As a result of this change, local governments must rely on levy renewals and, when necessary, additional millage to keep pace with increasing costs. In response, Bath Township is considering a November 3, 2026 road and bridge ballot issue that would renew its existing levy and contain additional millage.

Residents should also be aware that Ohio's 12.5% rollback subsidy remains available for owner-occupied homes on renewal levies. However, any new or additional millage approved by voters no longer qualifies for that state-funded tax reduction.

Property taxes fund many of the local services residents rely on every day. In Bath Township, approximately 90% of township revenue comes from property taxes to support police and fire protection, emergency medical services, road maintenance, parks, zoning, and other township operations. Eliminating property taxes without a replacement funding source would create significant financial challenges for local governments, schools, counties, and other public agencies across Ohio.

The importance of this funding is reflected in visible projects and services residents experience throughout the community. One of the most direct examples is the township's ongoing investment in road maintenance and infrastructure improvements. The proposed road and bridge levy renewal with additional millage is intended to help ensure Bath can continue maintaining roads, addressing infrastructure needs, and keeping pace with rising construction and maintenance costs.

During the 2026 construction season, Bath Township is participating in the Summit County Engineer's Regional Paving Program, which includes a variety of roadway improvements throughout the township. Planned work includes hot-mix asphalt paving on Pebble Creek Drive; motor paving with chip seal on Forest Pool Road, Magnolia Drive, Melody Drive, Pinecrest Drive, Larkspur Lane (North and South), and Robinson Spur; and chip seal applications on Harmony Hills Drive, Montrose Avenue, Clouse Street, Oak Hill Road, Round Rock Drive, Hillandale Drive, and Lois Drive. In addition, approximately 1,750 square yards of concrete road panel replacement work will be completed throughout Bath Township.

These projects represent the type of ongoing infrastructure investment supported by local funding sources and illustrate how levy dollars are translated into tangible improvements that benefit residents across the township.



As discussions about property taxes continue throughout Ohio, understanding how local services are funded, and how recent changes in state law affect future levies, will be important for communities and taxpayers alike.



A LIMITED EDITION COLLABORTION TEE WITH

BATH TOWNSHIP

ORDER
Here



Bath Township has teamed up with The Social Dept. to offer a limited-edition apparel series. These items are available to purchase through The Social Dept. clothing brand. All items are made to order and handprinted on super soft apparel with eco-friendly water-based inks for ultimate comfort!

If you have any questions, please reach out to info@thesocialdept.com. Order tees and sweatshirts online at thesocialdept.com/collections/bath-township or by scanning the QR Code above for a limited time only! Shirts will be available to order for pick up or delivery through August.

THE BATH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Administrator Lee Darst will continue the popular Sunday Sessions series through the remainder of 2026, covering a wide variety of topics spanning the history of Bath Township and the American experience. Each session will focus on the response and experiences of Bath Township citizens throughout the various topics and time periods.

In conjunction with the Sunday Sessions, the Museum's 2026 exhibit, America 250, celebrates 250 years as a nation by highlighting the daily lives of Bath Township citizens and their shared American experience. The exhibit features clothing, artifacts, maps, flags, and photographs illustrating what was happening both locally and nationally during each era, providing visitors with a unique perspective on how local history connects to the broader story of America.



Ghent High, 1907

All Sunday Sessions begin at 2:00 p.m.

July 19: Early Industries

August 16: Early Bath Township Government

August 30: Building Bath Roads and Transportation Routes

September 20: Bath Township Cemeteries

October 18: Early Bath Churches

November 15: Bath Township Schools

November 29: Century Homes of Bath, Part 1

December 20: Century Homes of Bath, Part 2

2026 Museum Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Sunday: 1:00–4:00 p.m.

1241 N. Cleve-Mass Rd. Admission is free!



SUPPORTING SENIOR RESIDENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SAFETY SERVICES

Bath Township values the important role our senior residents play in our community and remains committed to supporting their quality of life, safety, and access to resources. While the Township currently does not have the staffing or facilities necessary to properly accommodate dedicated senior programming, there are a number of outstanding community partners offering opportunities that may be of interest to many residents.

The Akron-Summit County Library provides a variety of adult-focused programs and activities at its locations in and near Bath Township. Residents can participate in book discussions, basic computer classes, artistic performances, landscaping workshops, and many other educational and social events throughout the month. Information about upcoming events can be found online at akronlibrary.org under the Events tab, or by calling 330-666-4888.

Another valuable community resource is Crown Point Ecology Center, which hosts programs open to all. Some of their most popular activities include guided nature walks and live music events held in their meadow. Residents can view their programming and events calendar online at crownpointecology.org.

In addition to highlighting local opportunities, Bath Township continues to offer services specifically focused on supporting the safety and well-being of our senior residents.

The "We Care" program, managed by the township Communications Center, is designed to provide support and security for senior citizens through a daily check-in system. The program offers peace of mind for participants and their families by ensuring regular contact and assistance if needed. Residents interested in learning more about the program may contact the Communications Center at 330-666-3736 on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Bath Township Fire Department also partners with Knox Box to provide residential key vault systems for homeowners. A Knox Box allows emergency responders to quickly access a home when a resident is immobilized and immediate access is critical. Residents interested in obtaining additional information or enrolling in the program may contact the Fire Department and speak to Shelley or Brent at 330-666-3738.

Bath Township remains dedicated to connecting residents with valuable resources and services that help strengthen our community and support residents at every stage of life.



The June 23rd Annual Meeting of Bath Community Fund (BCF), at Crown Point Ecology Center, celebrated the fund's recent accomplishments, introduced new opportunities for donor support, and looked ahead to the upcoming grant cycle. The meeting recognized outgoing and incoming Advisory Board leadership, including new board chair Diana McCool, while highlighting BCF's continued commitment to strengthening the community.

New donor initiatives introduced through Akron Community Foundation include The 1818 Legacy Society for planned giving and the Forever Bath Circle of Caring, an annual, tiered giving program of sustained support.

BCF will accept grant applications from nonprofit organizations from Sept. 1st through Oct. 1st for programs that enrich Bath and enhance residents' quality of life. In the past 10 years, BCF has awarded more than \$350,000 to local nonprofits, while building an endowment of nearly \$2 million. Approximately \$60,000 in grant funding is expected to be available this year.

To learn more about BCF, visit bathcommunityfund.org or contact Jody Konstand at jmkmedia@msn.com or 330-618-4477.

QUILT SQUARE DESIGN WINNERS

Photographs courtesy of James McClellan

The Heritage Cooridors of Bath and Discover Bath Barns committees recently concluded the Heritage Barn Quilt Square Design Competition, themed “Quilting: 250 Years of Spirit.” Supported through a grant from the Bath Community Fund and sponsored by Bath Township, the competition invited artists and community members to create designs that reflected the historic legacy, civic pride, and enduring spirit that define Bath.

The AM250 Themed Design Winner, “Honoring the American Spirit,” was created by Kathryn Hellweg of Medina. The design commemorates 250 years of resilience, unity, and hope through bold red, white, and blue star patterns inspired by the nation’s enduring ideals. The intersecting quilt elements symbolize citizens from every generation coming together to shape America’s journey from 1776 to 2026. Framed by vibrant borders, the design reflects both the strength of the nation’s history and the promise of its future.

This quilt square will be framed and displayed at locations throughout Bath Township for the remainder of 2026.



The Overall Winner, “Wheatfield: Pursuit of Happiness,” was created by Bath Township resident Marjorie Drinan. The design honors the township’s heritage and agrarian roots by incorporating the original name of the township, “Wheatfield,” and featuring a shaft of wheat as its central element. Flowing geometric patterns evoke rows of wheat moving in the wind, symbolizing growth and the passing of opportunity from one generation to the next.

As the artist explained, “Wheat is a symbol of abundance, prosperity, and provision. It embodies the wish that the bounties and rewards of the country remain attainable for all in the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Drinan’s winning design will be transformed into a barn quilt and painted by Walt Kaminski for display on the Lemmon Barn at Bath Township’s North Fork Preserve.

ZONING UPDATE

The Bath Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) met on June 21st to consider the zoning variance requests for the proposed Sheetz convenience store planned for the former Dimitroff Furniture property on Ghent Road at the I-77 interchange. The proposed development includes a store of approximately 6,000 square feet. Under the township's B-1 Commercial District, the maximum permitted single building footprint is 3,000 square feet. Therefore, the applicant requested a variance to construct the larger building, as well as a variance to increase the permitted single driveway width from 30 feet to 40 feet.

Following the testimony and deliberation, the BZA approved the requested driveway width variance but denied the requested building size variance. The BZA had previously approved two (2) conditional uses for a gasoline station and a drive through facility.

Once the BZA issues its formal written decision, Sheetz can pursue all or some of the following actions:

- Appeal the BZA's decision to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.
- Pursue a new zoning application for a Sheetz operation at the same location under the township's recently enacted overlay district.
- File a lawsuit against Bath for money damages for denying a variance for a larger building that has been granted many times in the past.

Zoning related meetings and public hearings are posted on the township website calendar at bathtownship.org and on the official township Facebook page. The township will continue to keep the community informed of any upcoming meetings and/or public hearings by sharing on both of these platforms.

PARKS UPDATE

Project updates at Bath Community Park remain on hold pending permit approval from the Summit County Engineer's Office for planned parking and stormwater improvements. While the park had previously been scheduled to close on June 8th, it will remain open until permits are received and construction is ready to begin. Due to the permitting timeline and the nature of the work, the project is now expected to be completed in phases to accommodate seasonal weather conditions and paving requirements. In the meantime, the project will move into the bidding phase so work can proceed as efficiently as possible once approvals are received.

Similarly, driveway, parking, and stormwater improvement projects at North Fork Preserve of Bath are awaiting permits from the Summit County Engineer's Office. The preserve remains closed to the public at this time.

Planning related to the existing home and barn at North Fork Preserve remains under review, and no decisions have been made regarding future improvements to those structures. 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.

SAVE THE DATE



Road Rally

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

3:00-5:00 pm

DINNER & AWARDS

4:30-6:30 pm

more information at

bathbusinessassociation.com

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY



Hosted By:



SUMMIT
e-WASTE
RECYCLING SOLUTIONS
Don't Hoard the Cord!

and



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

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH
BATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1246 N Cleveland Massillon Rd,
Akron, OH 44333**

2026 ANNUAL BARN SOCIAL

The 24th Annual Heritage Corridors of Bath Barn Social is scheduled to take place on September 16th, from 6-8:00pm at the Victory Gallop barn located at 1745 N. Hametown Road. Those who are interested in attending can RSVP by phone 330-666-4007, through email at reception@bathtownship.org or online at bathtownship.recdesk.com

The event will once again be a pot luck style. Those who are interested in attending can RSVP by phone 330-666-4007, email at reception@bathtownship.org, or at bathtownship.recdesk.com.

REGISTER NOW

