



BATH TOWNSHIP QUARTERLY

WINTER 2015

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1

2014 In Review

Bath Community Fund Organized and Launched *by Jody Kondstand*

Bath now has a community fund. The story is simple. For years, a number of residents talked about creating a fund or trust to benefit Bath Township. Early last year, some of those residents researched in earnest the creation of an enduring source of support to enrich the quality of life in our community through charitable grant making.

There were a variety of reasons why the time was right:

* If Richfield, Sharon, Hudson, and Medina, among others, could have community funds, why shouldn't/couldn't Bath?

* The inheritance tax, long used by Bath as a way to support its citizens, is essentially unavailable due to state changes. This had been a source of income (sometimes, hundreds of thousands of dollars) the township used wisely, whether to retire bond debt early, enhance park and open space land, purchase safety equipment or keep taxes lower.

* The creation and growth of the Women's Endowment Fund, started in Bath 21 years ago, were both inspiration and template for Bath Community Fund (BCF). Factor in the ease of affiliation with Akron Community Foundation, a philanthropic endowment established in 1955 and now valued at more than \$185 million with a growing family of more than 450 funds – not to mention the benefit of ACF's staff, expertise and history – and why not open a community fund?

Seven couples collectively contributed \$10,000 and since June of 2014, BCF has been an affiliate of ACF as a permanent endowment fund dedicated to the Bath community and established to positively impact the more than 60 non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in Bath. BCF is committed to responding to community needs within core areas of interest including historic and environmental preservation; arts and culture; youth, education and recreation; and social service initiatives.

The "For Bath, Forever" fundraising campaign is now underway to raise an initial endowment goal of \$250,000 in its first year, with a long-range goal of raising \$1 million by 2018, Bath's Bicentennial. Those funds would ensure that up to 5 percent of the fund's assets could annually be gifted back to the community through grants.

By the end of 2014, Founding Donors had gifted the fund with donations ranging from \$25 to \$50,000, growing the fund to almost \$160,000. Those making donations – from the simple to the complex, including cash, bequests, stock, real estate, life insurance and retirement assets – to the fund through March will be listed as Founding Donors.

The idea, formation and administration of the Bath Community Fund were solely those of a group of township residents. They were not influenced by the Bath Trustees or the administration. This is a perfect example of how township volunteers enhance community life.

Bath Community Fund ... dedicated to and "For Bath, Forever!"
For details on the fund, check www.akroncf.org/BCF or contact Jody Miller Konstand, advisory committee chair, at 330-618-4477.



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Bath Township Historical Museum

New Exhibit:

"Bath Township Post Civil War - 1865-1900"
Opens Monday, April 6 at 2 p.m.

Rummage Sale

March 13 & 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call Gail Elrod at 330-285-4840 to arrange drop-off of items.

"Lincoln's Funeral"

Presented by Bath Resident, Norm Schmidt
Wednesday, April 15, 7 p.m.



Zoning

In 2014, the Bath Township Trustees adopted the amended Zoning Resolution. The process began in 2011 following the update to the Township's Comprehensive Plan. The Zoning Commission worked diligently on updating the regulations to keep in line with changes in technology, development standards and current planning practices outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. One of the changes included creating a specific zoning district for the hamlets to allow for mixed use development and to strengthen design standards for future development as well as redevelopment. The Zoning Commission focused efforts on reducing the effects of storm water runoff by increasing development standards through green infrastructure. Also, parking requirements were decreased which in turn reduces impervious surfaces.

New housing starts (24) were on the rise, which can be mainly attributed to the resurgence of construction in The Reserve at Waterford. Overall, zoning permits increased 8% from 2013. The Board of Zoning Appeals heard 30 cases and the Appearance Review Commission evaluated 26 cases. ✿

The Year in Perspective *by Vito Sinopoli*

As we ring in the new year, I reflect on the opportunity to see our community grow and build upon previous accomplishments. The Township Trustees, the Fiscal Officer, department heads, and I have been hard at work developing goals and objectives for the year to come, applying strategies that will help keep our residents safe and ensure continuity of township services. We do this with the understanding that, in the future, there will be new challenges to face as a community...challenges that will push each and every one of us to work toward resolving issues in the most effective and efficient ways possible.

One significant achievement of 2014 was the completion of a sanitary sewer project in the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD), providing service to eight commercially zoned properties. Working closely with the Summit County Department of Environmental Services, the project was completed well under the estimated cost, and will offer needed sanitary sewer services to the JEDD properties. This project marked a significant achievement for the township, and demonstrates the importance of collaboration with partnering agencies to solve issues that benefit our community. It's important to note that the sewer extension affects only eight JEDD properties located on Ghent and Cleveland-Massillon Roads. The township will continue policies that support and preserve the rural character of the community, enforcing the same through zoning.

Also, benefiting our township and fostering the preservation and enjoyment of our community's heritage is the creation of a township visitor center. After years of work to develop a wayside visitor center along Cleveland-Massillon Road, the initial step in the process was achieved when the site for the center was acquired in 2014. Two separate grants funded the entire purchase price of the property, with an additional grant funding a substantial portion of proposed improvements. The site, on the west side of Cleveland-Massillon Road, north of Granger Road, will be known as the Heritage Corridors Information Center. It will feature a small parking area, as well as a pavilion structure that will house informational kiosks. Information about the township, the scenic byway, and the heritage corridor will be featured in the display.

With many significant accomplishments in the past year, 2015 provides a fresh opportunity to work tirelessly to achieve our next goals as a community. Together, let's make this another year in which we strive to support and strengthen Bath Township. ✿

Solid Waste and Recycling

The Township renewed its contract to provide trash service for Bath Township Solid Waste customers with Rumpke Waste and Recycling for another three years. To accommodate Rumpke's rate increase and to assist in covering the online credit card fees, residents' rates were increased slightly. This was the first increase since 2006.

Recycling is expected to increase in 2015 with the use of the large, blue 64 gallon recycling carts. A grant from Summit County ReWorks allowed the purchase of 126 carts. The township hopes to receive another grant for the same purpose in 2015.

Simple Recycling was another program started in 2014. This free service recycles textiles, clothing, and small household items at the curb on your regular trash day. Last year, 38,903 pounds were recycled. Green bags are provided. Call the township office or visit www.bathtownship.org to learn more. ✿



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An official newsletter published by the Bath Township Board of Trustees as a service to Bath Township residents under the authority of the Ohio Revised Code, Section 9.03

Office Telephone: 330-666-4007
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www.bathtownship.org

Office Hours:
 Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Elaina E. Goodrich Trustee	James N. Nelson Trustee
Becky Corbett Trustee	Sharon A. Troike Fiscal Officer
Vito Sinopoli, Township Administrator	

Meeting Dates for Board of Trustees:

Monday, February 2, 2015	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17, 2015	4:00 p.m.
Monday, March 2, 2015	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 16, 2015	4:00 p.m.
Monday, April 6, 2015	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 2015	4:00 p.m.

Service Department

During 2014, the township road crew accomplished the following:

- Resolved a total of 290 resident service requests, 160 of which were the result of damage from the May 12th storm
- Completed 609 linear feet of roadside ditching at 10 sites
- Replaced 16 driveway culverts and 7 road-crossing culverts
- Completed 18 burials at Bath Township cemeteries, 8 of which were cremation burials
- Installed 453 tons of asphalt for spot repairs of roads and drive aprons
- Logged 1570 hours battling snow and ice on township roadways

The following roadway improvements were completed by contract:

- ODOT Item 448 Asphalt Paving 1.09 miles of roads
- Asphalt Crack Sealing applied on 28 roads
- Concrete Road Panel Replacement performed on 18 roads
- ODOT Item 405/422 Motor Paving/Chip Sealing 1.51 miles of roads
- Asphalt Rejuvenation performed on portions of 5 roads
- 13 failed storm water catch basins rebuilt

The following work was performed by contract in the Bath Administration Building:

- Replaced the failing cooling tower
- Rebuilt the tornado siren located in the Bath Fire Station
- Rebuilt the sanitary lift station that services the entire building
- Repaired and upgraded the fire alarm system
- Replaced exterior windows on the west end of the building

Police Statistics for 2014

Aggr. Assault	Burglary	Rape	Robbery	Stolen Auto	Theft	Total 2014	Total 2013
2	16	2	1	1	126	148	146
Traffic Enforcement							
Traffic Crashes	Drunk Driving	Citations	Speeding	Suspended License	No License	Fail to Yield	Passing School Bus
573	43	614	97	78	10	39	2

Parks



Alan Garner

Bath Parks' success in 2014 was possible due to the continued support of the Bath community. With the renewal of the Park levy in May, residents committed to maintaining the parks and the services provided. Bath Township was awarded a Summit County Community Grant from the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition. This grant funds engineering for the Bath Creek Wetland Trail. In November, Bath Parks were awarded Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's 2014 Annual Award of Excellence. The award was given for the work done with the Bath Creek Stream and Wetland/Floodplain Restoration.

The storm on May 12 caused unexpected damaged across the township. The Parks replaced Creekside Bridge. Major repair was also done to the main driveway culvert at the Bath Community Activity Center. Lowes, as part of their Lowes Heroes Program, donated supplies and their time to build a deck attached to the Regal Beagle Shelter. In the Nature Preserve, Hickory Farm Lane was improved. The Bath Creek Wetland Trail was extended eighty feet with the proceeds from the Summit County Community Grant.

Annual Park Board events included Chillin' on the Hill, the rain barrel workshop, Fall Into Nature, and the second annual 8K Bath Steeplechase. In August, Community Day celebrations took place at the Bath Community Activity Center. Bath Parks estimates it had over 75,000 visitors for scheduled athletic events, including Lacrosse Fest, Family Fun Day, and the Cleveland Indians Summer Camp.

When reflecting upon 2014, this was a year of transition and growth for Bath Parks. After Mike Rorar's retirement in January, Bath Township began the process of selecting a new park director. In July, Alan Garner was named as Bath Township's Park Director and Assistant Service Director. While the year started off with many unknowns, it has been a successful one due to the hard work of the staff and the support from the township. ❁

Fire Department

Last year proved to be a busy year for the fire department in responses and other activities. The department responded to over 1500 emergency medical and fire related calls including numerous structure fires and traffic accidents during the year. The month of May was challenging. With the excessive amount of rain, there were numerous requests for assistance from flooding issues.

During 2014, there were many changes in personnel. Jim Brock retired with over 45 years of service and Lieutenant Dave Flowers with 20 years. Brian Mynhier and Mike Goodrich also left the department. Assistant Chief Rob Campbell was hired along with part-time fire medics Scott Robinson and Trevin Morrison.

Many improvements and upgrades were made to the apparatus and to areas of the fire department. Both fire engines received upgraded emergency lighting to increase visibility when responding to emergencies. Both chiefs' vehicles received incident command cabinets. New protective clothing gear racks were installed in the bays and modifications were done to the office and kitchen areas to provide better work spaces.

The department continued it's outreach with safety training for Bath businesses and a program on barn fires developed by Bath veterinarian, Jenny Gaffney.

The Bath Fire Department Incorporated celebrated its 70th Horse Show. Support from the community is appreciated since proceeds from this event are in turn donated to the Fire Department. ❁



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Upcoming Events in



Chillin' on the Hill

Sunday, February 8, 1 - 4 p.m.
 Winter Walk with Dr. Mitchell, 2 p.m.
 BNP Sledding Hill

Art Walk with Mark Dion

Thursday, March 5, 1:30 p.m.
 Meet at Ira Road Trailhead

State of the Parks

Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.
 UA Field Station

Salamander Migration

Nightly, Late March - Early April

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.
 Regal Beagle Shelter

Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, April 25, Noon

For more information visit:
www.bathtownship.org

Dedicated Volunteers Enrich Bath Township

The Board of Trustees is appealing to residents who are interested in becoming more involved within the community. Bath Township has over 100 employees and 4 elected officials but they are not the only people who make things happen in the township. Bath has numerous boards and committees staffed by dedicated residents. These people help the township maintain that sense of community and quality of life that we all enjoy.

Below is a list of the township committees. Those interested should provide their name, address, phone and email address to Elaina Goodrich by calling her at 330-666-4007 or emailing her at egoodrich@bathtownship.org. Please let her know your specific interest.

- Appearance Review Committee – (1st Monday monthly at 5 p.m.) to approve commercial signs and projects according to the township design standards
- Bath Historical Museum Committee – (as needed) to plan activities and exhibits celebrating the history of Bath Township
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (3rd Tuesday monthly at 7 p.m.) to deal with zoning variances and conditional uses
- Community Day – (as needed) to plan the parade and afternoon activities for the first Saturday in August
- External Audit Committee – meets twice during the annual state audit
- Friends of Yellow Creek – (3rd Monday monthly at 7 p.m.) to ensure the preservation and protection of the Yellow Creek and its tributaries
- Heritage Corridors – (2nd Wednesday monthly at 5:30 p.m.) plan activities celebrating the rural nature of Bath
- Memorial Day Committee – (3-4 meetings) to plan the Bath Memorial Day Observance
- Park Board – (bi-monthly) to plan and run the many community activities held in Bath Parks
- Water and Sewer Board – (3rd Monday monthly at 6 p.m.) to deal with water and sewer issues in unincorporated areas of the township
- Zoning Commission – (2nd Thursday monthly at 7 p.m.) to deal with general zoning issues

“Volunteering in our community has given me the opportunity to meet and work alongside wonderful people who I might not have otherwise come to know. It has also allowed me to gain new experiences such as working on the Steeplechase 8K, writing a business plan and helping to develop a non-profit, assisting with community events, serving on the team that began the Bath Community Fund, and most fun of all, cooking bread and pizza in the historic wood fired oven at the Regal Beagle.” Kathy Sidaway