

*Board of Trustees*

*Kama Dick*

*Julie Reese*

*Beth van Haaren*

*Fiscal Officer*

*Rhonda Ross*

*Assistant to the Fiscal Officer*

*Cathy Fortunato*

*Interim Fire Chief*

*Josh Schiebrel*

*Planning & Zoning*

*Mike Arnold*

*Road Workers*

*Robert Yocum*

*Billy Mannheim*

*Township Offices*

*8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)*

*Tipp City, Ohio 45371*

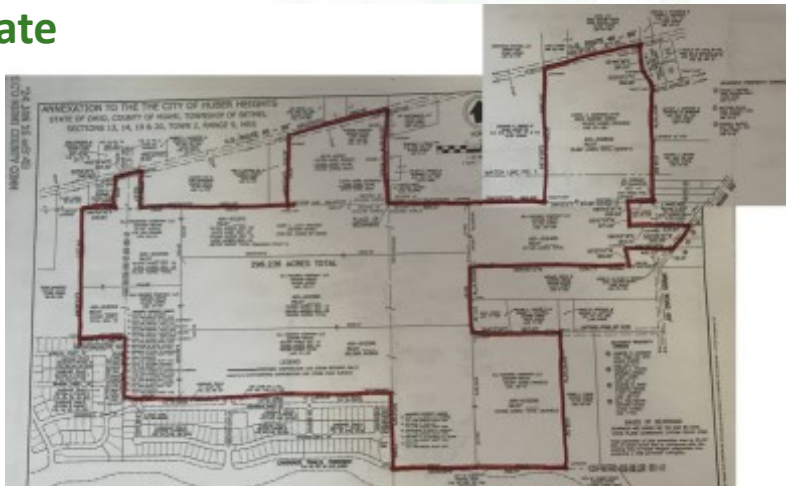
*937.845.8472*

# CURRENT

## *Bethel Township Trustees*

### Annexation Update

The Township is in the midst of an annexation process currently as an Expedited Type II Petition for Annexation was filed by several large parcel owners with the Miami County Board of Commissioners and delivered to the Township office per Ohio law. This map shows the parcels (outlined in red).



This is the same area as the previous annexation petition, but with an additional 35 acres. The total acreage is 296.236+/- acres.

In an Expedited Type II annexation petition, ONLY the County Commissioners and the municipality can vote to accept or reject the petition. Township Trustees do not vote on this type of annexation petition. The Trustees did present a resolution opposing the annexation to the Miami County Commissioners. The Commissioners reluctantly voted to approve the petition because by law, they had no other choice.

The Trustees also attend relevant Huber Heights Council meetings and Trustee Dick is the “official” liaison from Bethel Township. Huber Heights Council has yet to vote on the petition.

The Trustees will keep everyone informed on the Township Facebook page and website ([www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org)) as more information becomes available.

### Paving Information

Bethel Township has joined with Miami County in the past few years to update and repave some of our roadways. Trustee Kama Dick is working with the county this year to explore how the Township can best participate in the road paving consortium again. Township voters rejected a dedicated roadway maintenance levy in the past, so any maintenance or repairs must be budgeted from not only the gas and vehicle tax funds, but also from the general fund.

As with everything else, repaving costs have gone up. A typical one-mile stretch of roadway with a 20' width would cost the Township a minimum of \$138,275. Of immediate concern are parts of Wildcat Road—the plan is to pave approximately 2 miles of Wildcat this summer. The Township will keep residents informed as the process continues.

### Township Telephone System Updated

Several complaints were heard in 2022 and 2023 about the Township telephone system. Outdated transfer links were the primary problem. Township employees who had departed years before were still on the transfer system when residents called in. Trustee Kama Dick researched the various updates and fixes and the system is operating correctly now.



## Meet the New Officials



### **Kama Dick, Trustee, Vice President**

Mrs. Dick has been a licensed Ohio realtor for over 30 years and owns Kandi Enterprises LTD, a business based in Bethel Township. She specializes in the acquisition of residential and commercial investment real estate. Mrs. Dick was elected to the Bethel Township Board of Trustees in November, 2023. Previously she served on the Bethel Board of Education. She has been married to David Dick for over 45 years and has lived in Bethel Township for over 30 years. Mrs. Dick's term expires on December 31, 2027.

### **Rhonda Ross, Fiscal Officer**

Mrs. Ross was elected in November 2023 but was appointed as Fiscal Officer three months earlier than planned to fill the unexpired term of Deborah Watson, who resigned in December of 2023. She is a 1986 graduate of Bethel Local Schools. She is married to Tim Ross and has one son, Zach. She loves living the rural life and has never truly felt at home outside of Bethel Township. Mrs. Ross' term expires on March 31, 2028.



### **Cathy Fortunato, Assistant to the Fiscal Officer**



Mrs. Fortunato has lived in Bethel Township since 1972 and is a 1978 graduate of Bethel Schools. She has four children: Christina, Tony, Gina, and Leigh Anne—all Bethel graduates as well. After 29 years in management at the US Postal Service, she retired to enjoy time with her husband Mark, family, and their horses and goats. "I love my new job and the opportunity to help keep Bethel Township a wonderful place to live!" Mrs. Fortunato was appointed to her position in January 2024 and will assist Fiscal Officer Ross with all aspects of the Township finances.

## Swearing In of Zoning Board Members

Congratulations to our newest Zoning Board appointees (left to right): Lorna Furderer (returning member), Zoning Commission alternate; Nikki O'Quinn, Board of Zoning Appeals member (previously an alternate); and Rachael Kiplinger, Board of Zoning Appeals alternate. Thank you all for stepping up!



## Meeting Schedule

In order to make the Trustee Workshop Meetings more accessible to community members, all meetings are now held in the evenings at 7:00 PM. The last Tuesday of each month is reserved for Workshops (WS) and the first Tuesday of each month is for Regular Business (Bus) meetings. Meetings are rescheduled if they fall on holidays or polling days. We try not to vote on items in the Workshops, unless there is a pressing reason. Here are the dates for the remaining pre-scheduled meetings this year:

April 2	Bus	June 25	WS	September 3	Bus	November 26	WS
April 30	WS	July 2	Bus	September 24	WS	December 3	Bus
May 7	Bus	July 30	WS	October 1	Bus	December 30	WS
May 28	WS	August 6	Bus	October 29	WS		
June 4	Bus	August 27	WS	November 4	Bus		

## Trustee Reese Assumes Administrator Duties

With the recent retirement of our Township Administrator during the Christmas 2023 holiday season, fast action was required to ensure seamless operations in the Township. The Fire Department, Road Department, Trustee meeting requirements, and general administration all fall under the Township Administrator responsibilities. As Board President, Trustee Reese volunteered to take on the role of Acting Township Administrator to ensure our residents saw no decrease in Township services. Trustee Reese's extensive private sector experience in project management, event organization, and budget planning, among others, has served her well in this role.

In addition, the staff agreed to divide up some of the tasks of the Township Administrator to keep things running smoothly. Trustee Kama Dick volunteered to oversee Road Department and office issues. She meets frequently with the road crew. Assistant to the Township Administrator Mike Arnold volunteered to help with meeting organization and answering general questions about the Township Administrator duties. Trustee Reese is in the Township office regularly, along with Mr. Arnold, ensuring any issues are handled quickly and efficiently.



## Bethel Township 2024 Scorecard to Date

Your Trustees and Fiscal Officer are responsible for representing the interests of Bethel Township residents. Their commitment to serve often comes at personal cost, as they navigate the complex issues of the Township, striving to balance diverse perspectives, and make decisions that benefit the Township as a whole.

As most residents know, our Township Administrator/Fire Chief retired December 31, 2023 and our previous Fiscal Officer (FO) resigned December 26, effective December 31, 2023. While the election for the FO position is in November, the actual FO term does not end until March 31 of the following year. This term expiration date is set by the state in the Ohio Revised Code section 507.01. Many year-end reports, taxes, statements, and the new year budget appropriations are due during January and March to county, state, and federal agencies. The newly elected (incoming) FO can use the months between the election and the April 1 start date to get up to speed on the accounting systems, requirements, and methodologies required for the job. The incoming FO may also work alongside the outgoing FO to learn about the Township finances.

Due to the untimely resignation of the outgoing FO, the incoming FO-elect had to be appointed 3 months early to finish out the term. The Township is appreciative of the willingness of FO-elect Ross to assume the role in January to ensure the Township's operations continued smoothly. This involved various crucial tasks such as managing finances, paying salaries and bills, meeting year-end obligations, drafting the new budget, and handling tax matters promptly. An assistant as well as support from an experienced "visiting" FO (a program offered by the Ohio Auditor of State) was employed due to a backlog of unfinished work and the amount of research that was required. The Assistant to the FO takes care of administrative tasks together with financial duties, while Trustee Reese also helps with administrative tasks and financial research.



Our first responders, road crew, and office staff would have not received paychecks and tax information, and many bills would not have been paid if not for the outstanding work of FO Ross, the Assistant to the FO Fortunato, and Trustee Reese. Thank you to the new FO, who closed out 2023 on time, produced all necessary tax statements, submitted final appropriations, and is now working on the 2025 budget for the county and the upcoming audit required by the state. The FO and her assistant have not missed a single reporting deadline required by the county, state, or federal agency. And, thank you to Josh Schiebrel who continues to be Interim Fire Chief, taking over when our previous Fire Chief retired.

There is a lot going on in our Township, and your Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and Staff are facing many unexpected challenges. The Township is committed to being transparent. The Township appreciates our residents and their opinions. Let us celebrate all of the Township's achievements and support each other as we move forward.



## Zoning Update

### ZONING CERTIFICATES ISSUED:

ZC-01-24	6853 Ross Rd	Car Port
ZC-02-24	6825 SR 201	Barn
ZC-03-24	7066 Dayton Brandt	Barn
ZC-04-24	4242 E Ross Rd	New Residential Construction
ZC-05-24	8177 SR 201	Barn

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION (ZC):

The Bethel Township Zoning Commission held a meeting on March 21, 2024, at 7:30PM for case:

**Case: ZA-01-24:** A request from James Durham located at 8866 S SR 202, Tipp City, OH 45371, to combine 1.05 acre R-1AAA parcel with 10.03 acre A-2 parcel, and re-zone combined 11.08 acre parcel to A-1. Miami County parcel # A01-039350 (10.03 acres), and Miami County Parcel #A01-039200 (1.05 acres). **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL UNANIMOUSLY**

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA):

The Bethel Township Board of Zoning Appeals held a meeting on January 25, 2024, at 6:30PM for case:

**Case: V-01-24:** A variance request from Rob Hull at 8180 Palmer Rd, New Carlisle, OH 45344, for a 2,000sf accessory structure. Miami County Parcel # A01-053700. **APPROVED 4-1**

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Bethel Township Board of Trustees did not meet for a Public Hearing in the first quarter.

## Zoning Code Reminder

It's springtime which brings warmer weather. Time to repair our fences or build new. If you wish to have a fence, wall, or hedge, it is subject to the following conditions:

- ◆ It shall not be closer to any public street than the right-of-way.
- ◆ It shall not exceed 6' in height for side and rear yard fences for residential and 4' in the front yard.
- ◆ It shall not exceed 8' in height for side and rear yard fences for non-residential and 6' in the front yard.
- ◆ Materials shall comply with stated regulations in our Zoning Code.
  - ◆ It shall be properly maintained at all times.
  - ◆ It shall not interfere with visibility from a driveway.

The complete regulations can be found in our Zoning Code — **Section 30.06 Fences, Walls, and Hedges.**

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room. The Zoning Commission meets @ 7:30 pm the same night and in the same location.

Public notice for both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are posted on the home page of the Township website at [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org), and in the Troy Daily News.

Additionally, residents within 500' of the requesting property are notified by first class mail as per the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code.

## Town Hall Meeting

Join us up at the Township Meeting room on Thursday, April 25th at 7 PM to discuss the legalization of Recreational Adult Marijuana and how it may affect our Township.



## Bethel Alumni Banquet 5-9 pm on Saturday, May 11 at Bethel



**Tickets are \$25 & include dinner and entertainment.** To register, send a check to Bethel Alumni Association c/o Bethel Local School, 7490 S. State Route 201, Tipp City, OH 45371. Include name, class, address, and email of each graduate and guest attending. You may also include a donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund in your check. This is the 128th Annual Alumni Banquet.

## Fire/EMS



Fire/EMS Runs			
January 1 — March 31			
Fire	32	YTD	32
EMS	101	YTD	101
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>133</b>

### Attention Township Residents: Important Open Burning Regulations Reminder

As we welcome the spring season, and you start to clean up your property it's crucial to observe the regulations outlined by the Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 regarding open burning within our township. Here's what you need to know:

**Time Restrictions:** Outdoor open burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas during the months of March, April, May, October, and November between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.

**Prohibited Materials:** Please refrain from burning food waste, dead animals, or materials containing rubber,

grease, asphalt, or petroleum-based products.

**Safety Precautions:** Always use a proper burn barrel / pit when burning outdoors during legal hours. Ensure there's a water source nearby and never leave an open fire unattended. Additionally, maintain a safe distance of more than 1,000 feet from neighboring inhabited buildings.

**Weather Conditions:** Be mindful of high wildfire danger during spring before plants have turned green and in fall due to dry leaves and dead grass. Warm, windy weather exacerbates fire risk during these seasons.

**Air Quality Alerts:** Do not engage in open burning when an air pollution alert, warning, or emergency is in effect. Fire and smoke must not obscure the visibility of roadways.

Let's prioritize safety and environmental stewardship by adhering to these regulations. Your cooperation plays a vital role in preventing wildfires and ensuring the well-being of our community. Thank you for your attention and compliance. Stay safe!

## Sad News

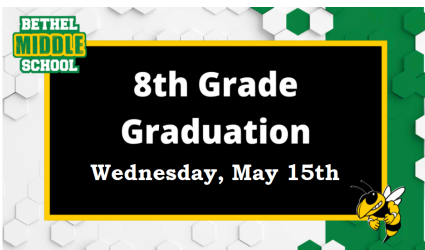
Jeannine Friend, 91, who was born, raised, and resided in Bethel Township her entire life, passed away peacefully February 1st. She earned a degree in Education from the University of Dayton and went on to teach 5th grade at Bethel Local Schools. She was a member of the Bethel Township Historical Society and was an avid bowler until she was 90 years old.

She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Wilbur, daughter Diana, and granddaughter Alyssa. She will be missed.



## Events in the Township

Bethel Local Schools will be holding an 8th Grade Graduation on Wednesday, May 15th at 9:00 AM in the High School Gym. High School Graduation will be on May 19th at 5:00 PM at Hobart Arena. Our second annual Yard Sale will take place Saturday, June 1 from 8 AM—3 PM at Friendship Park. More info on the yard sale will be coming soon via social media or text 512-632-9310 with any questions you may have.



**Bethel Township Trustees**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org)

Or like us on **Facebook** or **Instagram** — Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio

Note: you must login to Facebook after scanning the QR code on the left.



**April**

- 2 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 Tax Day
- 16 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM
- 25 Town Hall—Adult Marijuana Discussion, 7 PM
- 30 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 7 PM

**May**

- 1 Historical Society, 7 PM
- 7 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 21 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM
- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 27 Memorial Day, Township Offices Closed
- 28 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 7 PM

**June**

- 4 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 5 Historical Society, 7 PM
- 18 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM

- 19 Juneteenth, Township Offices Closed
- 25 Trustees Workshop Meeting, 7 PM
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

**We invite you to attend!**

**The Board of Trustees meets in Workshop Session on the last Tuesday of each month and Regular Business session on the first Tuesday of each month, if needed.**

**Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission only meet if a case is pending.**

**Please check the Township’s website for meeting cancellations or updates.**

All meetings are held in the Bethel Township Community Room, 8735 S. Second Street-Brandt unless otherwise noted.