

Bethel Park CHRONICLES



Thank you for
a memorable 2023 Bethel Park!
Wishing you a wonderful holiday
season and a healthy, happy 2024!

Bethel Park Municipal Council
& Mayor



www.bethelpark.net



www.bpsd.org

Inside This Issue:

	Page		Page
MUNICIPAL NEWS		SCHOOL NEWS	
Council President Leaves a Positive Legacy	3	Facilities Update	45
Municipality Receives Two Grants	4	Sloan Transitions to a New Role in Facilities	46
Start a Meditation Practice at the Library!	6	Homecoming Weekend at Bethel Park High School	47
Support Your Local Bethel Park Businesses!	8	Chamber Orchestra Chosen to Perform at State Music Conference	48
Nominate an "Outstanding Citizen"	11	Kindness in Action Campaign	50
Meet Your Newest Police Officers!	12	Bethel Park Girls Tennis Wins First-Ever WPIAL Title	51
Protect Yourself from Fraud	13	Grimm Named Athletic Director	51
Winter Safety Tips from the BPVFC	14	Ben Franklin's Kindness Wall	52
BPTV Receives Five Awards!	17	BPHS Reprises Original Fall Play: "The Second Star"	52
Annual Holiday Decorating Contest!	20	Harmony and Remembrance: "Violins of Hope" Inspires an Unforgettable Evening	55
RECREATION PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES		Four BPHS Students Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program	57
How to Register	23		
Youth Programs	25		
Ties and Tiaras	28		
Adult Programs	30-31		
Comedy Night	34		
Summer Camp	35		
Dean Streater Concert	38		



Shannon, Dormont
*Company President
Jazz Dance Team Member
Cancer Survivor*

WHERE YOU'RE
**MORE THAN
A PATIENT**

MAYO CLINIC
CARE NETWORK



Member



**St. Clair
Health**

Retiring from Council in December, President Tim Moury leaves a positive, lasting legacy in Bethel Park

Back in 1995, **Tim Moury** had no intention of running for office let alone be Bethel Park's Municipal Council President; however, fate intervened and his attendance at a Council meeting back then put forth the momentum to drive him to run for Council (*Ward 8*) and soon become Council president serving the Bethel Park community for the last 27 years.

"I had an interest in politics early on," said Moury. "I was interested, but I didn't ever think that I would run for an office. However, in 1994, I attended a Council public hearing where they were deciding whether to light Village Green Park or not. I went to the meeting because it impacted my home."

However, after sitting patiently waiting while the council argued for 25-minutes as to who can call the meeting to order and only letting a few residents speak because the allotted meeting time ran out, Moury's interest was piqued, and he began to attend regular Council meetings.

"At that time, there was a lot of partisan bickering back and forth on recreation and nothing was

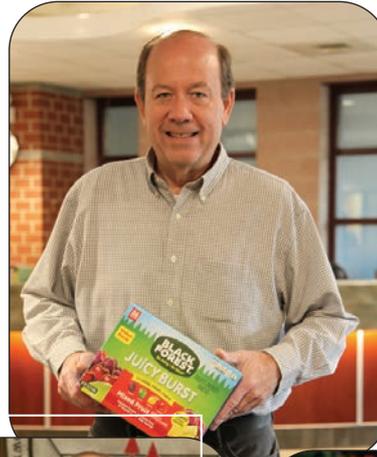
commitment to the community to pay off the 10-year loan debt from the Millennium Park purchase and then build phase 2 of the Community Center, recreation addition.

"Community Center construction began in 1998 and the Center opened in 1999.

Then, 10 years later when the Millennium Park debt was paid, we began the planning process to add the recreation addition to the Center which is the current gym, classroom space and walking track that we have today...all without raising taxes," said Moury.

From there, Council went on to upgrade the neighborhood parks and Moury credits working with the Bethel Park Community Foundation as a big part of their success with these projects.

The Foundation funded the Community Center kitchen, tables, chairs and other amenities with their fundraising



“ A lot of times, you need to understand how we got to where we are so that you can make a better decision moving forward. ”

Tim Moury

happening. When my ward election came up, it was going to be a contested race. But the person who was running called and said he was no longer going to run, two weeks before the filing date, and asked me to and that's how it all began," he said. "That was in 1995 and I took office in January 1996."



efforts and brick campaign," said Moury. "Once the Center was built, there was still a demand for additional bricks, and we raised another \$100,000."

Other accomplishments Moury looks back on

included updating the community infrastructure committing to over \$150 million in upgrades for the sanitary sewer system and Treatment Plant; the Fire Company dedicated Fire Tax (*voted on by referendum*) to maintain all three fire stations and build a state-of-the-art fire station on Brightwood Road; continued upgrades of all the parks giving each neighborhood park it's own special amenity; the new Splash Park opening Memorial Day 2024; 10 Pickleball courts at Millennium park; and most recently his work with the Bethel Park School District for the Municipality to obtain Washington and Ben Franklin Elementary Schools when they close in 2026, and turning the old Drake Loop Trolley Line into a \$1 million walking trail in cooperation with the Township of Upper St. Clair. In general, over the last 28 years, Bethel Park has been able to expand greenspace and parks by over 150 acres, including the two schools.

In all these projects, building trust and consensus was paramount to the process.

"We met with the Fire Company for over years to develop a plan for the Volunteer Fire Department to meet their current and future needs. From these meetings, we came up with the plan to offer a referendum for a dedicated tax to be created for the Fire Department enabling the Municipality to be responsible for the buildings and letting the firefighters focus on their extremely important work of protecting our community. The referendum was approved by a 2 to 1 vote," said Moury. "And, through all of these projects, we have and continue to work with state legislators to seek grant funding to help offset project costs and we're grateful for their assistance."

An important component to all these projects goes back to a 10-year plan early on that set the direction and goals for the community.

(*Tim Moury*) cont. pg. 19)

MANAGER'S CORNER



Kristen Denne

Happy Holidays! It's been a pleasure serving the Bethel Park community as the Municipal Manager over the past several months. Everyone has been so gracious in welcoming me and I'm grateful to be part of such an outstanding community that exhibits so much spirit and pride.

Almost every week since I've been in Bethel Park, I've been able to witness this sense of pride through the special events I've attended whether through the Municipality, School District, community organizations, the Chamber, church, and more! It's been a true pleasure meeting so many of you during this time. On a personal note, I am originally from Western Pennsylvania and grew up in West Mifflin. I have been working in the eastern part of the State as a Municipal Manager for the last ten years, but always hoped to move back to Pittsburgh if the right opportunity presented itself. Bethel Park ended up being that opportunity! I am truly grateful and humbled to be chosen for this position.

As 2023 comes to a close, I'd like to offer a few updates. Unfortunately, we'll be losing some of our longtime Council statesmen, **President Tim Moury**, **Vice President Mark O'Brien**, and **Councilman Dr. Tim Campbell**, as they retire from local government and move on to other endeavors. We wish them all the best and truly thank them for all that they've done to guide us and bring us to where we are today. I have been fortunate to work with these fine gentlemen over the last few months and consider myself very lucky to be blessed with their wisdom, knowledge, and sense of community. With their departure comes three new Council members, **Kimberly Kamenicky**, **Jim Jenkins**, and **Viola Garis**, who will be bringing new ideas to the table. We're looking forward to working with them on the future of Bethel Park and setting the course for the future of Bethel Park. Watch for an informal gathering with the new Council members in early 2024. I've also been busy assessing each of our Municipal Departments to ensure that we're working with the best technology, equipment and proper staff sizing to serve our residents in the best way possible.

We had a very difficult budget this season, due to unforeseen circumstances the refuse collection contract with Waste Management increased by over \$1.1 Million. This contract along with increases in insurances, and capital material increases led to a shortfall in budgetary reserves that will need to be replenished in upcoming years. The Council deliberated for many sessions on how to balance the budget, while planning for the future needs of community. It was decided that there would be a .75 Mill Tax increase and to increase the local municipal earned income tax to 1%. Even

with these increases, Bethel Park still enjoys one of the lowest tax millages in the South Hills of Pittsburgh.

Looking ahead to spring, we'll be opening our new Park Avenue Splash Park and new Pickleball Courts in Millennium Park. Everyone can look forward to the Grand Opening details on both projects to be announced this spring! To accommodate the expected larger number of visitors, we've acquired new parking areas near the facility for both the Splash Park and Community Center to provide additional parking spaces.

Again, thank you for giving me such a warm welcome and I am very proud to call Bethel Park home!

Have a wonderful holiday season and blessings for a healthy and prosperous New Year!



Bethel Park Receives "WalkWorks" Grant!

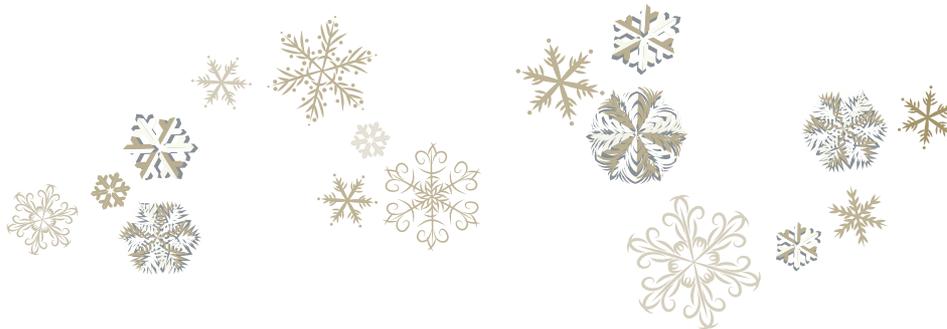
Thanks to input from the Bethel Park community, the Municipality was just notified that it's one of nine communities in the Commonwealth receiving a "WalkWorks Active Transportation Planning Grant."

"We received \$25,000, the maximum grant request," said Bethel Park Grant Writer & Redevelopment Coordinator **Diana Alberter**. "We're appreciative of the community's input and look forward to working with all stakeholders to develop a plan that provides active transportation options for all."

The WalkWorks grant offers funds to not only develop Active Transportation Plans, but to increase physical activity by connecting local destinations with improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks.

The WalkWorks program benefits from its partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and its funding of two of the grant recipients.

"Moving our bodies is important to improving our overall health, helping to prevent stress and diseases, such as diabetes and high blood pressure. Walking is one of the easiest and most accessible ways to do that, and walking outside has the extra benefits of sunshine, fresh air, and taking in the beauty of nature—all of which are good for our physical and mental health," said Acting Secretary of Health **Dr. Debra Bogen**. "WalkWorks supports healthy communities by enabling more people to have the option of walking or biking to places they go every day."



Municipality Receives Grant for Simmons Park Trail System

The Municipality received a \$25,300 grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to prepare a Master Site Development Plan for a multiuse trail system within Simmons Park.

The planning process for the Site Plans will include key person interviews, public meetings and a study committee to assess community needs such as ADA access, close-to-home recreation options (*are nearby residents within a 10-minute walk?*), and desired trail features. This information will guide the design of the proposed trail system and result in shovel-ready plans.

Green and sustainable design elements will be implemented in trail construction as the existing topography will be utilized to build the pathways; no manmade material will be used. Other features will include benches made from recycled materials, trail markers and informational signs, a nature play area and LED lighting.

For more information, or to participate in future meetings regarding this project, please contact **Diana Alberter** at dalberter@bethelpark.net.



www.bethelparklibrary.org

412-835-2207



ADULT PROGRAMS

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Make an appointment to learn more about your laptop, e-reader, smart phone, or common software programs.

Appointments are 45-minutes long. Bring your charged device and all relevant cords/cables. Don't have a device? Learn on one of our computers! These free classes include (*but not limited to*): Basic Internet, Email, Microsoft Word, 3D Printing & Windows. Days and times vary. Call for more information or to schedule an appointment.

MYSTERY BOOK CLUBS

2nd Wednesday of each month 10 a.m.
3rd Wednesday of each month 7 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

Last Monday of each month 7 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

Last Thursday of each month 10 a.m.

CONVERSATION SALON: DISCUSSION GROUP

1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

This group seeks the satisfaction and inspiration of face-to-face conversations about topics that are enlightening and relevant. The only requirement for attendance is an interest in expressing your views and insights while remaining appreciative of those of others.



KNITTING AT THE LIBRARY

Every Wednesday! 6:30-8 p.m.
Knitters of all levels welcome! Bring your yarn and needles to knit and stitch. THIS IS NOT A CLASS.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.
Fun, friendly games! New members welcome!



PITTSBURGH SOUTH WRITERS GROUP

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Attention Writers! Pittsburgh South Writers Group offers writers of all genres the inspiration and constructive criticism needed to improve their work.

GENEALOGY GROUP

4th Monday of the month at 1 p.m.
Exchange information and research ideas. Call or check the Library's Event Calendar webpage for next meeting date.

MEMORY CAFÉ

2nd Wednesday of every month from 10:30 a.m.
Join us for an informal Dementia support group especially designed for families and caregivers. No registration needed.

BETHEL PARK LIBRARY BUTTON CLUB

4th Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.
Are you looking for a new hobby? Buttons are beautiful, historical, inexpensive, and fun to collect. For more information, call the library at 412-835-2207.

UNREAL ENGINE 4 MEET UP - PITTSBURGH

The Unreal Engine is now FREE. Meet-ups are also FREE. Join us to talk with others interested in creating and learning about the virtual realms that involve the engine locally. Join and RSVP at communities.unrealengine.com. Space is limited. Meetings at Bethel Park Library.

To register or for more information call 412-835-2207.

NEW MOVIE RELEASE TUESDAYS

Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m.

We will be showing the new blockbuster DVD release of the week on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. Call for schedule.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FOR ADULTS

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 12-4 p.m.

Join us for old school Dungeons & Dragons for adult players! New or experienced players welcome!



JOB INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Come prepared with a resume if possible and some job postings that interest you. Together we can help you approach that big interview with conviction and self-assurance.

Call to schedule a 1-hour session. Appointments are held on Wednesday afternoons. (a 1 p.m. session and a 2 p.m. session) MUST REGISTER.

BOOSTING EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

Presented by **Jessica Lynch M.Ed**, Senior Executive Functioning Coach, PKO Counseling Services

Wednesday, Dec. 6th at 6:30 p.m.

In our fast-paced world, the ability to manage time, prioritize tasks, stay organized, and regulate impulses is crucial for academic success. This presentation will explore the importance of executive function skills and provide some practical strategies for students and parents to foster their development.

CREATE A MOSAIC- ADULT CLASS

Presented by **Michelle Kirk**, Artist, Teacher of adult and child classes and Party Artist

Thursday, Dec. 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your own 'base' to do mosaics on. Glass mosaics are heavy and need a sturdy base. LIMITED SPACE - MUST REGISTER

FOSTER PARENTS CHANGE LIVES

Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Jackie Pleska of Adoption Connection, PA

Learn how you can make a difference in the life of a child. Information about foster care, adoption, and other ways to support children and families.

PARENTING IN THE AGE OF IPHONES AND FACEBOOK

Outreach Teen and Family Services

Wednesday, Jan. 10th at 6:30 p.m.

The 1-hour presentation will include insight into children and teens lives with social media as well as strategies for parents to help their children navigate the social media sphere safely.

HOW TO SELL YOUR HOUSE FASTER AND FOR MORE MONEY...ON A BUDGET!

Presented by **Cindy Rack**, Keller Williams Realty and **Bob Caun** from Home Inspections Plus

Wednesday, Jan. 24th at 6:30 p.m.

This presentation will show you things you can do on a budget to sell your house faster and for more money. Bob Caun will talk about the things that come up on inspections and how you can be proactive in resolving them in advance. These tips will ensure a smoother closing once you find a buyer.

WHY MEDITATE?

Presented by **Sheila Forester**

Wednesday, Jan. 31st at 6:30 p.m.

We will explore the holistic effects of meditation and the practical methods of getting started. We will discuss and participate in Transmission Meditation – an advanced form of meditation that contributes to both our well-being and our service to the world. Sheila facilitates Transmission Meditation weekly in Pittsburgh.



3D PRINTING FOR ADULTS

Tuesday, Feb. 6th at 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to use the Library's 3D Printer to make personalized gifts, replacements parts, or your own artistic item or creative invention. If you cannot make the date above, please call for other times. Must Register – Limited Space.

AI AND JOB SEARCHING

Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 12:30 p.m.

This class will introduce how AI (*artificial intelligence*) is being used in resume building and job searching. It will also cover career resources at the Library. This class is perfect for those reentering the workforce. LIMITED SPACE - MUST REGISTER.

HOME BUYING 101



Presented by **Cindy Rack**, Keller Williams Realty and **Michelle Serene** from PNC Bank
Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

This workshop will give you a fresh look at home buying and help you understand renting vs

buying, how to determine where you want to purchase, finances including types of loans, why use a realtor, types of homes, importance of home inspections, closing costs, etc.

HISTORY OF JESUIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Presented by **Michael Rizzi**

Thursday, Feb. 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel Park native and St. Valentine School alum Michael Rizzi has recently published a groundbreaking book on the history of Catholic higher education: Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States: A History. Hear the story of Catholic immigration to the United States, and how Catholic schools served those immigrants and fought against discrimination throughout history.

To register or for more information call 412-835-2207.



Winter
Programs

**at the Bethel Park
Public Library**

www.bethelparklibrary.org 412-835-2207 ext. 267

**Early literacy classes, cooking
classes, pajama parties, book
clubs, and more!**

**PLUS, don't miss our annual
Winter Reading Club!**
A musical celebration will conclude
the program at the end of January.
Be a part of our first community
drum circle event!

For more details, visit our website
beginning December 1st.





Support Bethel Park Businesses this Holiday Season!

This holiday season, when thinking about holiday gift buying, home remodeling, holiday dinners and luncheons, gift cards, decorations, and more, please consider buying local and supporting Bethel Park businesses! These businesses need our support and are vital to our community!

Municipal Small Business Initiatives

To provide support, the Municipality established numerous initiatives geared towards raising awareness of all that the Bethel Park business community has to offer. We've partnered with the Bethel Park Chamber to coordinate our efforts as well.

- A **"Dine, Shop, Support"** website page listing businesses that expressed an interest in participating with their contact information and business descriptions. This page is currently being updated.
- A **Business Blog** featuring profiles of local business owners.
- **Mayor Jack Allen's BPTV show, "Jack of All Trades,"** found on YouTube featuring local business people.
- A **Job Fair** in conjunction with the Chamber; watch for details on a Spring Job Fair coming soon!
- **Special events** geared towards supporting local businesses.

Are You a Local Business Owner?

If you're a local business owner and would like to be listed on the Municipality's 'Dine Shop Support' webpage or would like to be featured for a future local business profile, please email: kindness@bethelpark.net.



2975 South Park Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102
www.bpchamber.org

PAWS for VETS Campaign

The Bethel Park Chamber kicked off its Annual PAWS for VETS campaign for 2024 with the Annual Veterans Day luncheon in November. The Chamber purchases companion pets for area veterans. The sponsorship fee is \$350 and covers the upfront expenses for the animal. Veterans must be South Hills residents. The Chamber has formed a partnership with Animal Friends and Animal Friends follows through with the adoption. More information can be found at www.bpchamber.org.

A special 'Thank You' to our 2023 PAWS for Vets Sponsors!

RC Mechanical
Dynamic Systems
Visionary Credit
American Legion
Big Fish Contracting Co.
Blue Sky Closing
Haya Eason

Chamber Hosts Holiday Lunch

The Bethel Park Chamber will host its Annual Holiday Lunch on Thursday, Dec. 7 at Houlihan's at the Galleria. Guests are welcome. The Chamber holds a holiday lunch each year to network and to kick off the holiday season. For reservations, visit www.bpchamber.org.

Holiday Trees at the High School

The Bethel Park Chamber in partnership with DECA and Bethel Park High School light up the High School lobby with holiday trees! Trees are purchased by the Chamber, trimmed by the clubs, displayed in the High School lobby, posted on Facebook, and appear on BPTV to be raffled off. Clubs receive funds collected to use for 2024 activities.

Partner News

- Huntington Bank is Saluting our Veterans at Huntington Bank South Hills Village.
- The Tri-State Military BRG hosted a Flag Raising Ceremony on Nov. 10th from 6-8 p.m. with great food, music, entertainment, refreshments and kid activities!
- Home Depot is having Santa Claus and the Coca Cola truck at their South Hills Village location for FREE pictures with Santa Claus from 12-3 p.m.

Watch for Upcoming Event Dates for 2024

For first quarter upcoming events, visit the Chamber website at www.bpchamber.org. The following events will occur in January, 2024:

- Annual Economic 2025 Forecast
- "New Kidz on the Block" Lunch
- Chamber Chat Coffees
- After Hours ConneXions

New Chamber Members for October

- Syndiscus.Inc
- Two Men and a Truck
- Oaks Roofing and Siding
- Not Forgotten and Community Services
- Shannon Jenkins Learning
- WesBanco

New 2024 Chamber Board Members

- Debbie Lafferty-Artis Senior Living
- Dave Priore-Century Heritage Federal Credit Union
- Phil Behr-Valor Insurance
- Charles Dinovitz-Save Here Today
- Dave Deurerling-Pittsburgh Computer Solutions
- Steve Kingsly-Rowdy BBQ
- A.J. Scarpaci-Ace Pressure Washing
- Josh Higgins-Huntington Bank
- Linda Rusch-Iron City Glazing
- Rob Kaczorowski-Realty One Group Platinum
- Craig Pritts-Chamber Choice



BETHEL PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Bethel Park Educational Foundation (BPEF) is a community-based, non-profit organization, whose goal is to support programs that promote quality education. The Foundation works to facilitate communication and involvement among students, parents, school staff, business leaders and community citizens. The Bethel Park Educational Foundation is independent of the school district but works closely with the school board, administration, teachers, and students. All programs that benefit Bethel Park students are considered for financial support. The program list grows and evolves to reflect the needs of the student, teacher, school, and district as they are identified.

BOARD

- Pam Dobus, President
- Caitlin Metzler, Vice President
- Tom Bailey, Treasurer
- Deb Luckasevic, Secretary
- Vic DiPrampo, Secretary
- Dr. Roger Zelt
- Patty Campbell
- Lindsay Crowley
- Dr. James Walsh
- Marsha Slezak Burt
- Gail Hoppe
- Courtney Williams
- Andy Amrhein

Please direct any questions to:
bpefoundation@gmail.com

The Bethel Park Educational Foundations seeks to:

- Create initiatives that support imaginative and creative opportunities for excellence and innovation in a Bethel Park education.
- Collaborate with educational, cultural, public, and private entities to enhance and enrich the educational experience of Bethel Park students.
- Develop supportive relationships between the Bethel Park School District, community, and alumni to raise funds for the purposes set forth above.
- Encourage academic excellence in the Bethel Park School District by providing funding not available through traditional local, state, or federal resources.
- Provide a perpetual source of funds through endowment gifts received from all parties interested in supporting excellence in a Bethel Park education.



Innovation

Innovation implies transformation from the status quo.



Teacher Grants

These grants seek exploration of new teaching methods or to create experiences that stimulate student learning.



School Improvement

School Improvement means making schools better places for learning.



Student Grants

Student Grants support excellence in education and envision the student as a life-long learner---intellectually, physically, and artistically.



Contribute to our Mission!

Mission

To enhance educational opportunities for our students by increasing community involvement with our schools.

You can now donate via the United Way:



YOU MAY DESIGNATE THE BPEF AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION. ENTER YOUR CONTRIBUTOR'S CHOICE AGENCY CODE AS: #12998472



WHAT IS THE BPCF?

BETHEL PARK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Bethel Park Community Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that embraces a philosophy of local philanthropy. Tax-deductible contributions made to the Bethel Park Community Foundation are applied to fund local initiative and community programs in these 5 areas:

- COMMUNITY FACILITIES • EDUCATION • RECREATION • THE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS • COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Funds are made available through a grant application - visit www.bpcf.org for more information or contact us at: PO Box 811, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Did You Know that the Bethel Park Community Foundation is a Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization?

What better way to support the Bethel Park Police, Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company, Tri-Community South EMS, and a wide range of community-focused activities than with one tax-deductible check to the Bethel Park Community Foundation?

Or would your family or group like to start a scholarship, where you and others can make tax-deductible contributions? The Bethel Park Community Foundation as a 501 (c)(3) organization can help with that too!

You can also make a tax-deductible donation to Jeez, our Bethel Park Police K-9, or to help with furnishings at the Bethel Park Community Center. Both of these have special funds with the Bethel Park Community Foundation.

Please remember to think of the Bethel Park Community Foundation in your estate planning.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak personally with a member of the Bethel Park Community Foundation, please email us at info@bpcf.org or call 412-831-6800, x740.

Since 1999, the Bethel Park Community Foundation has granted nearly \$750,000 back into the Bethel Park community.

Your tax-deductible contributions at work in our community!



Community Day

Bethel Park Community Day 2023 was a success! We enjoyed our annual Lollipop Pull game with novelty coin prize, promoting our organization offerings, and most importantly raffling off two FREE Tickets to Bethel's Bounty!



Fantastic Four Golf Outing

The sixth annual Fantastic Four Golf Outing was held on Sept. 25 at Nemaocolin Country Club and was a huge success. The event raised around \$34,000, which will be divided equally among the following four non-profits: Bethel Park Community Foundation, the Bethel Park Education Foundation, Bethel Park Historical Society, and the Bethel Park Public Library.

Thanks to all our players and sponsors for their support!



First National Bank Supports the Foundation!

Thank you to First National Bank for the generous donation of \$5,000 to the Foundation at the Grand Opening Ceremony of their new location in the South Hills!



You can now donate via the United Way:



UNITED WAY SUPPORT YOU MAY DESIGNATE THE BPCF AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION. ENTER YOUR CONTRIBUTOR'S CHOICE AGENCY CODE AS: #892191

Find Us On Facebook

The Bethel Park Community Foundation is now on Facebook: Bethel Park Community Foundation. Please visit and "Like" our page for updated information from the foundation.



A MESSAGE FROM JUDGE ARNONI...

"Outstanding Citizen" Award Nominations

Due by Dec. 29, 2023!

It's easy to be cynical today; all we have to do is watch the news. I see crime, disputes, negativity, and despair in my courtroom every day. I think we could all use a little positivity! That's why I want to reward those who demonstrate the good in our society. I want to honor people who strive to make our communities better.

I'll be presenting two Outstanding Citizens' Awards this winter; one will be from Bethel Park and the other from Upper St. Clair. **I need your help in identifying those individuals who possess the qualities that best exemplify an Outstanding Citizen.** Please take the opportunity to nominate someone who you might think meets the criteria on the nomination form listed below. **Forms must be received by Friday, Dec. 29, 2023.** I will read all submissions and choose the honorees. They will be presented with a commemorative medal and certificate in my office. We will also pay tribute to the recipients with a photo and an article about their accomplishments in a future issue of local publications, as well as on local television broadcasts. Thank you, in advance, for your help!



Nomination Form Outstanding Citizen Award

This award will be presented to the individuals who have consistently:

- Demonstrated excellent community leadership.
- Made significant contributions to our communities.
- Positively impacted the residents of our communities.
- Shown their generosity and unselfishness through their actions.

Nominees should meet the above criteria, have resided in Bethel Park or Upper St. Clair, respectively for at least two years, and be age 18 or older. No self-nominations please.

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Please describe the attributes and qualifications of the nominee and the reason why you feel this individual should be honored (*please use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary*):

I hope this inspires you to participate in the nomination process. Again, thank you!

Please return this application by **Dec. 29, 2023** via mail to:

Judge Ron Arnoni
District Court 05-2-20
Hiras Professional Building
2414 Lytle Road, Suite 200
Bethel Park, PA 15102

- OR -

Fax your application to: **412-835-4060**
or email it to Heather.petronio@mdjs.pacourts.us

BETHEL PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bethel Park Police Department Welcomes New Officer

On Oct. 2nd, Bethel Park Police Department's (BPPD) newest Officer, **Sean Moore**, was sworn in by **Judge Arnoni**.

Officer Moore earned a bachelor's degree from Kent State University and previously worked for Frazer Township Police Department.

All new Officers undergo an intensive Field Training Program before entering solo patrol.

Please welcome Officer Moore to Bethel Park!



Officer Moore being sworn in by Judge Arnoni.

Two Officers Retire

Officer James Linz and **Officer John Symsek** have retired from BPPD, each having served for 28 years. They were hired in 1995 and worked in both our Patrol and Traffic Divisions during their tenure.

We wish them both the best in their retirements!

*l-r: Officer Linz
and Officer Symsek*



*Happy Holidays from the
Bethel Park Police
Department!*

"National Night Out" 2023



The Aug. 1st National Night Out program was a huge success!

Hundreds of residents came out to take a stand against crime and support police-community partnership! And, the desserts, face-painting and Mario Brothers were a big hit!

Our thanks to PGH Party Creations, DonutNV, TC Candy, Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Co., and Tri-Community South EMS.



POLICE*(cont. from pg. 12)*

Protect Yourself from Fraud

Millions of people are defrauded every year. Keep these tips in mind to prevent yourself from becoming a victim:

- **Identify imposters:** Scammers often pretend to be a family member, charity or someone you trust. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request.
- **Do your research:** Conduct online reviews of any companies before hiring to ensure their legitimacy.
- **Verify Caller ID:** Caller ID's can be spoofed. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.
- **Don't pre-pay:** Don't believe the promise of a prize or item if they request you make a payment beforehand for taxes, fees or delivery.
- **Payment Methods:** Legitimate companies won't require you to pay by money wiring services or by purchasing and relaying gift card numbers.
- **Talk to someone:** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Scammers want you to make decisions in a hurry. Don't be rushed, talk to a friend.
- **Hang up on robocalls:** These calls are illegal, and often the products are bogus. Don't press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.

Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at [ftc.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams).

Be a part of the Bethel Park Crime Watch Program

The program includes community meetings, communication via email alerts, and special events.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at the Bethel Park Community Center at 7 p.m. and are hosted by the Chief of Police and Crime Prevention Officer to highlight current crime trends in Bethel Park and the surrounding communities. In addition, guest speakers are invited to provide information on crime prevention and community resources.

What can Crime Watch members do to help keep Bethel Park safe?

- Be alert
- Know your neighborhoods and watch out for one other
- Report suspicious activities and crime to the police
- Stay up to date on crime and crime prevention strategies

If you would like to be added to the Crime Watch email list, please forward your information to the Crime Prevention Office at crimewatch@bethelpark.net.



Sean Gorman,
Crime Prevention Officer

412-833-2000 OR 911
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE
412-851-BPPD (2773)

CONTACT/SOCIAL MEDIA:

Anonymous Tips can be called into the hotline – 412-851-BPPD (or 2773) or emailed to crimewatch@bethelpark.net.

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for updates:

Facebook Page:
Bethel Park Police Department
Twitter:
@bethelparkpd
Instagram:
bethelparkpolice



Winter Safety Tips

Please follow the following tips to stay safe this winter.

- Avoid driving on ice-covered roads if possible.
- Inform friends/family of your travel plans and allow sufficient time to arrive safely.
- Dress warmly, even when driving, in the event of a vehicle breakdown.
- All sidewalks must be clear of snow and ice within 24 hours of accumulation and cannot be deposited on the roadway (*BP Ordinance 59.50*).
- Avoid parking on the street when snow is predicted to allow Municipal salt trucks to completely clear the roads.

We appreciate your efforts to keep our community safe for drivers and pedestrians!

Update on the DEA Prescription Medication Disposal Program

There will no longer be designated drop off days for the disposal of prescription medication. Instead, there is now a box at the Bethel Park Police Department that is accessible 24/7 for the disposal of prescription medication (*no needles or liquids*). Please place the medication into a zip lock bag without the prescription bottle. The Bethel Park Police Dispatcher will direct you to the disposal box secured inside the police station. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Bethel Park Police at 412-833-2000.



BP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF: *Dave Gerber*



Last year we didn't experience many heavy snowstorms, but I would like to thank the residents who took it upon themselves to shovel out their neighborhood fire hydrants. I would also like to ask that other residents do the same this year as it will save firefighters a drastic amount of time searching for hydrants that may be needed if your house is on fire.

In November everyone changed their clocks, so you should have also changed the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. If you haven't done so, be sure to

take the time to take care of that now! As you are changing the batteries, check to see if there's a sticker on your detector stating the date of manufacture. Smoke detectors are typically good for 10 years and CO detectors are usually good for 7 years. A detector older than that may still work, but it should be changed to be more efficient. Below I've also included several safety tips to help keep you safe this winter. Many of these are issues that we encounter in Bethel Park every year.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Candles

Candles may be pretty to look at and smell, but they are a leading cause of home fires – and home fire deaths. Three of every five candle fires start because the candle is too close to something that will burn. And, more than one in three candle fires begin in the bedroom. Therefore, avoid using them in the bedroom or other areas where people may fall asleep.

December is the peak month for candle fires with Christmas being the peak day. The majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence.

By adhering to the following simple tips, it could help save your life:

- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down – put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Extinguish candles after use.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

Carbon Monoxide

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. **A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.** Fire departments in the U.S. respond to an estimated nine calls every hour in which carbon monoxide was found.

In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the CO alarm sounds, immediately go outside to fresh air, and keep your windows and doors in the house closed. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for, call 911 and wait outside for them to arrive. During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

If you need to warm a vehicle, be sure to remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open.

Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO also so they can only be used outside. Other ways to prevent CO conditions from occurring are to have your heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.

("Chief" cont. pg. 16)



**BETHEL PARK
VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.**

Call for
Volunteers

We're looking for men and women in our
community to volunteer & protect our
families, property and neighbors from fire!

- RECEIVE FREE TRAINING & FREE EQUIPMENT!
- Volunteers of all ages accepted!
- Continue to work at your current job and only respond when you are free.
- Volunteering as a firefighter is a great way to give back to the community!

Interested? Complete an application at
www.bethelparkvfc.com or stop by the Brightwood Rd.
 Fire Station Monday evenings at 6:45 p.m.

Did You Know?

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company has its own group of fire police. The Fire Police are members of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company who receive sworn police powers and special training to support firefighting efforts by performing traffic and crowd control at fire scenes. On occasion, Fire Police also assist the Bethel Park Police by handling road closures, traffic control, crowd control at public events, and other miscellaneous tasks as requested.

Pennsylvania Fire Police have limited police powers, and although they have no authority to make arrests, they do have the right to detain someone within reason. Fire Police may control the flow of traffic to ensure emergency vehicles have a quick, safe entrance and egress to an incident. They may halt traffic or detour traffic because of the situation and the dangers involved. They take orders from the police officer in charge or fire incident commander.

All Fire Police Officers are sworn officers of the law and when on duty, display a badge of authority and are subject to control of the chief of police, or a member of the Pennsylvania State Police. Disobeying a Fire Police Officer is the same as disobeying a Police Officer, Sheriff's Deputy, State Constable or State Trooper and assaulting one is a felony. For more information on the law regarding Fire Police, please check out the PA Consolidated Statutes: Title 35, Subchapter D.

From the President's Desk: *Jim Thomas*

I'd like to take a moment to clarify why we still ask for donations, even after the Municipality of Bethel Park implemented a dedicated fire tax. The Municipality owns the three stations from which we operate -- Brightwood Station, Clifton Station and Milford Station. The fire tax revenues are used to pay for these stations, including any debt service, utilities, repairs, maintenance, and upkeep. On the other hand, your donations are used to pay for and maintain everything else that we need to provide fire and rescue services, including fire trucks, firefighter turnout gear, rescue equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, and many, many other things. **To put things in perspective, in the next 10 years we will need to replace three fire trucks that are currently over 20 years old. The average cost of a basic new fire truck is over \$750,000! We are also constantly in need of replacing worn out turnout gear, tools, and rescue equipment. The cost of replacing turnout gear for just one firefighter is over \$4,000.**

We'd also like to point out that because we are an all-volunteer fire department, the Municipality does not have to pay the salaries and other benefits associated with a paid department. **A conservative estimate is that we are saving the taxpayers an estimated \$4 million a year by being completely volunteer!**

We take great pride in remaining a completely volunteer department and hope to remain that way. But, to do so, we need more volunteers and a steady supply of donations to fund the costs that aren't covered by the fire tax. We would appreciate any and all help you can give us, so that we can continue to help you in your time of need.

Finally, we'd like to thank all of you for the support that you have given us over the years. We truly appreciate it and look forward to continuing to serve you!

We accept donations in these ways:
(We do not solicit donations by phone.)

- 1) Online at www.bethelparkvfc.com
- 2) Make your check payable to the **Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company** and mail it to the BPVFC, 5213 Brightwood Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102
- 3) Venmo - @BethelPark-VFC
- 4) PayPal - @bpvfc



Help Wanted!

The entire community of Bethel Park is protected from fire by volunteers. Volunteering your time as a firefighter is a great way to give back to your community. Since 1927, the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company has not had any paid firefighters. We have relied on men and women from within the community to step up and volunteer to protect their family, property, and neighbors from fire. One of the benefits of becoming a volunteer fire fighter is that it allows you to continue to work in whatever career you are in now and only respond when you are free. Many of our volunteers have jobs outside of Bethel Park and young families at home but are still able to help us. Unfortunately, over the years we have not had enough volunteers joining to ensure that in the future we will continue to be able to adequately protect this community. We are always looking for volunteers of any age to help protect the community of over 32,000 residents and over 650 businesses. BPVFC provides all members with free training and all necessary equipment. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please stop at the Brightwood Road Fire Station any Monday evening at 6:45 pm or fill out an application on our website at www.bethelparkvfc.com.



Community Events

Each school year we receive countless requests for station tours, safety talks or to bring an engine to birthday parties. If you would like us to visit your next event or to schedule a Fire Prevention talk, complete a request form on our website at www.bethelparkvfc.com.



CHIEF MESSAGE

(cont. from pg. 14)

Holiday Decorating

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together, but that also means it's a time for a greater risk for fire. Have a safe and happy holiday season by following these safety tips:

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, and lights. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to check the stand daily to ensure it is filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks or clips (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

Heating

Did you know that heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening!

Chimneys and vents should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional every year.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 ft. away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater. Never use your oven to heat your home! **Portable space heaters should be plugged directly into an outlet and not an extension cord or power strip.** Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

And finally, **TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY!!!**



How to Reach Us

None of our three fire stations are regularly staffed with members. If you need us to respond to your emergency, you must call Police Dispatch at **412-833-2000** or call **911**. If you have a non-emergency question or concern, the best way to reach us is through our "Contact Us" page on the website at www.bethelparkvfc.com. You may also call us at **412-835-1127** and leave a message on the answering machine.



Bethel Park Public Access Television
VERIZON 32 - COMCAST 7 - YOUTUBE

BPTV Receives Five Greater Pittsburgh Community Media Awards

On Oct. 19, Bethel Park Public Access Television participated in the 7th annual Greater Pittsburgh Community Media Awards, which recognizes achievements in both public and government access

television programming. This was the first time the awards show was conducted in person since the pandemic, and was host to a sold out crowd of attendees.

BPTV programs came home winners in the following categories:

Arts & Entertainment: *The Andy Allen Show*, producer **Andy Allen**
Andy produced a variety style talk show featuring local musician **Jeff Schmutz**, lead singer of the band Good Brother Earl.

Health & Lifestyle: *Live Well Bethel Park*, producer **Drew Dowdell**
This episode of the Live Well Bethel Park is titled "The Benefits of Eating Local" and features three vendors from the Bethel Park Farmers' Market.

Religious & Spiritual: *Jack of All Trades*, producer **Jack Allen**
Jack visited St. Anthony's Chapel in Troy Hill and learned the history behind this church that holds the second largest collection of religious relics in the world.

Community Impact: *By Request*, producers **Al Levine & Jessica Lee**
Jessica visits ACH Clear Pathways in the Hill District and introduces you to its story and all the great programs it provides.

Series: *Maria's Ideas Teaches You to Paint*, producers **Al Levine and Maria DeSimone Prascak**
Maria teaches Al, the audience and sometimes a special guest how to create a painting in under an hour. She helps bring out the artist in all of us!

We would also like to recognize our other nominees **Andy Amrhein, Tim Hannan, Steve Wert, Dr. Jessica Homer and Jacqueline Capatolla.**

BPTV is constantly producing new content thanks to our dedicated community producers. Check us out On Demand through the Bethel Park website (www.bethelpark.net), on our YouTube channel or Comcast 21, Verizon 32. Our government channel can be found on Comcast 95 or Verizon 31.

Thank you for watching BPTV, The Pulse of Bethel Park!



Bethel Park 2024

TRASH & RECYCLING UPDATE



2024 Changes include:

- Starting Jan. 1, 2024, all trash & recycling **MUST** be placed in the cart for pickup.
- Residential homes are eligible for **two 96-gallon trash carts and one 96-gallon recycling cart**. New automated recycling carts will be delivered early 2024 (first quarter).
- Glass recycling is now included and will be collected bi-weekly.
- Bulk pickup will be scheduled once per month (TBD). Two bulk items are allowed per pickup.
- Additional carts are available from Waste Management for a yearly fee.

Need More Info?

Visit

www.bethelpark.net/trash&recycling

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, Bethel Park will have a new contract with trash & recycling provider Waste Management.

NAME THAT FENCE!



A Special opportunity for the new Bethel Park SPLASH PARK

BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Purchase your commemorative 9" x 5" metal plaque that will be mounted on the fence surrounding the new Splash Park! All donors will be invited to a special 'Donor Day' at the Park next summer!



For more information, scan the QR code or visit www.bethelpark.net/splashpark

Mayor and Municipal Council 2023

Your Name HERE!

We've Upped Our Social Media Presence!

There are now numerous ways to follow us on social media! Please 'like' and 'follow' us on the following platforms to stay in the 'know' on all Municipal news!

www.bethelpark.net
 Facebook: Municipality of Bethel Park
 Twitter: @Bethelpark_PA
 Instagram: @BethelParkPA



90+ Club Luncheon a Success!

On Friday, Oct. 20, the Municipality of Bethel Park and Mayor Jack Allen sponsored the 19th annual 90+ Club Luncheon at the Bethel Park Community Center.

The event was attended by approximately 65 Club members, Municipal Council Members, the Police Chief, Municipal Manager, and State Representative **Natalie Mihalek**. Representative Mihalek presented **Joan Morton** with a special recognition in remembrance of her husband, former Bethel Park Mayor, **Clifford Morton** who started the 90+ Club 20 years ago.

The Luncheon was catered by Cyd West Comfort Catering, cookies were provided by Eat'N Park, ice cream cups were provided by Giant Eagle on Library Road, and the flowers were provided by Shrubs-N-Stuff.

If you would like to find out more about the 90+ Club or consider joining, please contact **Janet Davin** at 412-831-6800, x211 or email jdavin@bethelpark.net. The 90+ Club has over 130 members!



TIM MOURY

(cont. from pg. 3)

"Strategic planning offers us stability to move ahead with our work and obtain grant funding to assist with costs," said Moury. "Our long-range Recreation study has helped guide us to make Millennium our 'Diamond' park, overhaul Village Green Park to become a soccer and sports field complex, to create our new Splash Park at Park Avenue and Pickleball courts at Millennium Park. It will also help guide the Municipality in developing a plan for the two new school facilities as well."

To go along with the new Splash Park and the expected increase in parking needs, Moury said that the Municipality was able to acquire two lots near the Splash Park and Community Center that will offer about 100 extra parking spots.

"This is tied into our long range 'Blueprint Bethel Park' plan," said Moury. "And the Splash Park will be a centerpiece for our recreational offerings. The final project cost is about \$3.5 million of which we received \$950,000 in grants and about \$1.5 million in COVID funds. The facility will truly be a destination for children and families."

When thinking about what he'll miss most after leaving council, Moury said it will be the interaction with residents and helping them with their needs.

"Overall, what I'll miss is the people that I meet and the relationships that I've built over the years," said Moury. "I've always tried to make everyone feel comfortable reaching out with questions or concerns and I've always tried to over communicate in my Ward to keep residents there aware of anything that may impact them."

Regarding advice for those who will be newly starting Council, Moury said the key is relationships.

"You need to develop relationships and trust one another. I've been successful in building consensus, and you do that by building trust," he said. "Everyone may have ideas, but the success of them coming to fruition is by building a working relationship with the people you serve with. It goes back to staying in your lane; people get into problems when they bring in issues that don't pertain to local government."

Mayor **Jack Allen** credited Moury's leadership not only on Council but also in the community.

"I've worked with Tim ever since I joined Council. He was a good leader and Council President for 27 years and whoever takes that position is going to have big shoes to fill," said Mayor Allen. "His leadership wasn't just on Council but also in the community. He shows up to almost every function, he's involved in committees, community organizations such as the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center and the Veterans Memorial Committee, and more. I think his work on the Community Center taking it from an idea to fruition is one of his biggest accomplishments as well as the acquisition and development of Millennium Park. And his work at the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center should also be mentioned. There he's taking a building that was in very bad shape and developing it to become a centerpiece in our community."

Moury appreciated his time with Council and thanked everyone he's worked with over the years.

"I've worked with 25 different Council members during my tenure, and I've learned from all of them," said Moury. "I served with Mark O'Brien the longest and he was always my voice of reason. There are also a lot of people who've been important to me and friendships I've made on Council, with staff, other elected officials, **John Maher** and **Natalie Mihalek**, and I've learned from all of them."

Councilman **Mark O'Brien** reflected on his work with Moury over the years. "He's a man of great character, vision, compromise and destiny," said O'Brien. "From the day he was elected, Bethel Park was his first priority and will remain that way until the last day of his tenure. I will profoundly miss serving with him."

Following his departure from Council, Moury will continue working with organizations that he's been involved with such as the Bethel Park Historical Society, where he serves as President, and look for new volunteer opportunities.

Other Comments on Tim Moury:

"Tim's legacy is found in every corner of Bethel Park! We can all see the tangible and durable advances in recreation and parks, the library, roads, fire houses and public safety. Another part of Tim's legacy is understandably less obvious to most people.

Tim's leadership fostered harmony on Council, with the School Board, the County and neighboring communities. This sort of harmony is altogether rare in today's world - perhaps because it is so difficult to accomplish and sustain. By constantly setting the tone, Tim made it look easy. His legacy leaves Council in a strong position that I hope members will endeavor to sustain - it's not as easy as Tim made it appear!

I greatly admire Tim's tremendous humility. Whether

“I've always tried to make everyone feel comfortable reaching out with questions or concerns and I've always tried to over communicate in my Ward to keep residents there aware of anything that may impact them.”

Tim Moury



as a Council member or volunteering - the school preservation and Veteran's monument come to mind - no matter how essential Tim was to success, he has always demurred from taking credit or letting others shine a spotlight on him. It's always been all about Bethel Park - it's never been about Tim. I rank Tim at the top of the hundreds of elected officials I've known. He's always strived to take care of

both today and tomorrow. Bethel

Park is very fortunate for his decades of effort. I am fortunate to call him a friend!" - **Former State Representative from the 40th District John A. Maher.**

"Tim Moury has not only been an incredible leader in the community, he's also a longtime friend. Tim's incredible work ethic and dedication to Bethel Park is without a question unmatched; he's easily one of the best local public officials in our region. His leadership has included too many items to list and he will be missed by many. I wish him well in all his future endeavors and know he will continue to be involved at the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center and the Bethel Park Historical Society, which is one of his many lasting passions and legacies. Thanks, Tim, for everything!" - **Judge Ron Arnoni.**

Tim Moury's Honors and Awards

- Allegheny County Library Association Local Public Official of the Year
- State Association of Boroughs Distinguished Service Award 2018
- Bethel Park Great Alumni Hall of Fame - Induction Class of 2019
- Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence 2019 - Responding to Adversity

Board Positions and Community Experience

- Bethel Park Historical Society, President
- Pennsylvania Dairy Leadership Council
- Allegheny County Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission (ACE)
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Board of Directors
- Pittsburgh International Airport's Terminal Modernization Program (TMP) Working Group
- Outreach Teen & Family Services Board of Directors



Bethel Park Realtor Brunch

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, approximately 40 local real estate professionals attended a luncheon at the Bethel Park Community Center to learn more about Bethel Park's services, facilities, schools, community groups, Chamber, and more! Speakers included individuals from the Municipality, School District, Police Department, Fire Company, Chamber, Library, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Thanks to all who attended!



Nominate Your Home or Someone Elses!

To nominate a home, email jdavin@bethelpark.net or call 412-831-6800, x211 by Tuesday, Dec. 19. Judging will begin Dec. 20th.

There will be one winner per Ward. Winners will be announced at the January Council Meeting.

Want to be a Judge?

If interested, email or call Janet via the information above.

2023 Halloween Decorating Contest Winners

Following are the winners of Bethel Park's Annual Halloween Decorating Contest! Thanks so much to everyone who nominated a home, participated and helped judge the event!

Ward	Winner
1	Friend Residence 5550 Fera Drive
2	Regrut Residence 6089 Great Dane Drive
2	Honorable Mention Vilella Residence 5900 Kings School Road
3	Podgorski Residence 5820 Irishtown Road
4	Anstey Residence 7088 Lawrence Drive
5	Even Residence 4319 Anna Street
6	Counihan Residence 5798 Wilson Drive
7	Nastold Residence 3208 Greenwald Road
8	Peck Residence 174 Meadowbrook Drive
9	Gunzenhauser Residence 1151 Braun Road



DEC. 20 - 28

MUNICIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Bethel Park Municipality has full-time staff members who perform various tasks within the Municipality. Several staff members attend Council meetings to assist in the conduct of the meeting and to answer questions from Council. Those usually in attendance are listed below: (All numbers listed are 412-831-6800; specific extensions are listed below.)

Kristen Denne

Municipal Managerx137

Adam Steele

Assistant ManagerX201

Lisa Lapaglia

Finance DirectorX210

Susan Dolinar

Public Works DirectorX301

David Rudolph

Code Enforcement OfficerX130

Emily Skoczlas

Interim Recreation Director412-851-2910

Other Important Municipal Numbers Include:

Emergency (fire, police, EMS).....833-2000

Main Municipal Office Number831-6800

Receptionist831-6800 X0

Bethel Park Community Center851-2910

Bethel Park Public Library835-2207

EMS (non-emergency).....831-3710

Fire Department (non-emergency)

Brightwood Station835-1127

Fire Prevention Unit.....835-3473

Recreation831-1328

Public Access TV.....831-3304

Jordan Tax Service835-5243

Visit Us Online at www.bethelpark.net

Outreach Turning the Big 5-0!

By: Outreach Marketing Committee

Pat had a difficult family life, with parents showing little interest in how he spent his days. Morris had a great family, but just didn't fit in with his peers. Anna was off the charts gifted but didn't engage with her classes.

To escape the daily grind, these teens turned to drugs and became part of a group that skipped school to hang out at Mt. Lebanon Park. It was during one of these afternoons that a counselor from Outreach approached them. He had a genuine interest in what they were experiencing and showed up consistently, without judgment, to listen and learn from the teens who were spending their days at the park. Eventually, he suggested they visit Outreach's office in Uptown Mt. Lebanon.

There, they formed groups, talked about their lives and the challenges that they faced with difficult families, disinterested or absent parents and complicated sibling relationships. The counselors who ran the groups understood that the drug use was masking emotional and psychological stressors; they encouraged the teens to explore these emotions and issues so that they could create new coping skills and healthy habits.

That's how it all started in 1974 – a group of caring, nonjudgmental adults making meaningful connections with teens in need of support, counsel and guidance as they navigated their complicated worlds. It's why Outreach mattered back then... and it's why we still matter today, nearly 50 years later.

Outreach Teen & Family Services' origins date back to the 1960s as a grassroots concept between the Mt. Lebanon Police Department and Community Relations Board. The organization was officially formed in 1974 under a grant from the Pennsylvania State Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. In 1981, the organization incorporated as a non-profit agency with the name Outreach South, later changed to Outreach Teen & Family Services.

For five decades, Outreach has been a community resource to help youth and families thrive by providing counseling and educational programs in a welcoming and supportive environment. While we've evolved with the times, our primary purpose remains to be a place of comfort and compassion, where kids and families can find professional counselors ready to guide them along their journeys.

Our core group of clients is still mainly teens, ages 13-17, but the agency has expanded over the years, and we now also work with clients as young as 5 and as old as 21. Issues our counselors focus on have moved from predominantly drug and alcohol to a broader range of topics that includes anxiety, depression, stress, adjustment, and family/school issues.

50th Anniversary Campaign

In November, we'll kick off our 50th Anniversary Campaign with our annual appeal. To donate and join us as we embark on our path to continue helping children, teens, and families for the next 50 years, use the QR code below. And stay tuned for more details about our annual Connections Gala on April 26th, 2024, where we will be celebrating our history and looking toward our future.

We want to hear from you!

Do you or a family member have an Outreach story to share? Contact **Mary Birks**, mbirks@outreachteen.org, and learn how your experiences can be included in our 50th Anniversary video and social media campaign. (All stories can remain anonymous.)

THANK YOU!



BETHEL PARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL & MAYOR



Jack T. Allen
Mayor
831-9923



Timothy J. Moury
President
WARD 8
833-4615

Joseph A.
Consolmagno
WARD 1
833-7993



Dr. Timothy Campbell
WARD 2
418-9197

John Oakes
WARD 3
595-7750



Todd Cenci
WARD 4
357-0045

Joe Janosik
WARD 5
328-6563



Mark J. O'Brien
WARD 6
831-0774



Dave Espinar
WARD 7
833-5254



Lindsay Flinn
WARD 9
568-3281

WINTER 2023

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Meet Bethel Park's New Programs Coordinator, Lindsey Sibert!

Many of you may already know her first as the Bethel Park Farmers' Market Coordinator, then as the Special Events Coordinator, but now **Lindsey Sibert** is the new Recreation Programs Coordinator having started her new position on Oct. 23.

"I'll continue to support and plan events for the Municipality, but I'll also work with our sports groups and Community Center Recreation programming staff to provide something for every child," said Sibert. "We want our programming to be welcoming for everyone; that's particularly important to me."



← Lindsey Sibert

Sibert will also be overseeing Recreation's Summer Camp Program as well as the new Farmers' Market Coordinator (*yet to be named at the time of this article*).

"I started with Bethel Park about two years ago when I ran the Farmers' Market. It was a part-time position, and it was something that I enjoyed and was passionate about," said Sibert. "It was exciting to go to work each day! I then got more involved with the Municipality and was offered a part-time special events coordinator position. When the full-time Recreation Programs Coordinator job became available, I was excited about it

because it offered me the chance to use all of what I knew and to learn more, so I took it...especially because I have kids here and live in the community; it felt like a natural fit!"

Sibert has already begun reviewing current Recreation Programs and thinking about new ones.

"We have a lot of great

programs," she said. "I want to see what's working and where there are gaps that we can fill such as possibly offering a music program or cooking classes."

Since her start, Sibert has enjoyed the relationships she's built and the programs she's been able to coordinate for the community.

"It's nice to work in a rewarding environment. And programs such as the Farmers' Market and Winter Market give me a sense of pride to offer them to a community where I live; these events affect my friends, neighbors and family. It makes me happy to make a difference here."

In the future, Sibert wants to survey residents to see what types of programs and classes they'd like to see offered.



Pictured: Lindsey and her husband Anthony with their children Jensen, Barrett and Logan (in the back).

("Lindsey" cont. pg. xx)

BETHEL PARK RECREATION

Bethel Park Community Center
5151 Park Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102
Phone: 412-851-2910

Register online at: www.bethelpark.net
Contact us at: recreation@bethelpark.net

Office hours: Monday through Friday
9 AM - 4:30 PM

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE:

	Page
REGISTRATION INFORMATION	23
Mail Registration Deadline, Special Notice, When Programs Begin, When Fees are Due, Insurance Information, Returned Checks, Residency Information, Refunds, Cancellation of Class Use of Photos, Class Attendance, Conduct	
RECREATION BOARD	23
AQUATIC PROGRAMS.....	24
YOUTH PROGRAMS	25
CLASSES, ARTS & CRAFTS, DANCE, FITNESS & EXERCISE, SPORTS, SPECIAL EVENTS	
ADULT PROGRAMS.....	30
CLASSES & WORKSHOPS, DANCE, FITNESS & EXERCISE, SPORTS	
COMMUNITY CENTER	36
SILVERSNEAKERS®	39

PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION.
PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2024.

WINTER 2023

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SPECIAL NOTICE

Bethel Park Recreation reserves the right to cancel, combine or divide classes, or to make other changes that become necessary and to do so without incurring obligations. Adjustments of fees will be made when classes are canceled by the Department.

WHEN PROGRAMS BEGIN

In almost all instances, each activity will have a schedule with a beginning date. In those cases where time or day is not available, interested individuals should call the Recreation Office.

WHEN FEES ARE DUE

All fees must be paid at the time of registration unless special arrangements have been made at the Recreation Office.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

The Recreation Board does not carry health insurance to cover injuries incurred while participating in any activity. In most cases, hospitalization carried through your employer will cover these types of injuries. Participants are also responsible for their personal property. Valuables should never be left unattended.

RETURNED CHECKS

Any check that is returned to the Recreation Office as "NSF" will be subject to a **\$35 replacement fee**. All "NSF" checks **MUST** be replaced within ten (10) working days, or the person will be withdrawn from the roster.

RESIDENCY INFORMATION

All Bethel Park residents are given preference in registering for programs offered in this leaflet. Classes with limited enrollment will be open to non-residents only if space permits. The Recreation Board reserves the right to refuse admission to any person who misrepresents residency and will not give refunds to those individuals. Non-resident fees are set for each activity and should be paid accordingly upon registration.

REFUNDS: Please read...

Refunds will only be given upon written requests received in the Recreation Office prior to the beginning of the second class or practice session for a grouped session. For a one-time class or session, a 24-hour written request will be required. Phone requests will not be accepted, nor does failure to attend a class constitute notification of intent to withdraw from a class.

Send your request to:

recreation@bethelpark.net
or by mail at:

Bethel Park Recreation
5151 Park Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102

All refunds are subject to a **service fee of \$5**. The Department will issue a credit letter to be applied to any non-contractual Recreation program for a 1-year period in place of the refund if the individual so desires. Exceptions for refunds or credit letters include special ticket sales and non-refundable programs/activities.

CANCELLATION OF CLASS

Participants should check with the Recreation Office for updated program information. **Individual phone calls will not be made to verify registrations.** **Emails, text messages and/or phone calls will be made ONLY for classes that have been canceled.**

HOW TO REGISTER

Registrations will now primarily be online only. Please go to www.bethelpark.net for more information on all our programs, activities and to register. When you get to the main page, please click on Departments and then Parks/Recreation, there you will see a link to register online.

Register at least one week before the start of the activity unless otherwise stated. It is important to pre-register for any activity found in this leaflet because an activity may be canceled when there is insufficient registration. Never plan to attend the first class without pre-registering.

Individual telephone calls will not be made confirming registration. The only time you will be notified is if there is a change or cancellation of the class or activity.

USE OF PHOTOS

Bethel Park Recreation provides opportunities for positive publicity by photographing/videotaping patrons at programs for use in local publications, newspapers, and/or television.

If you prefer that you and/or your child not be photographed for publicity purposes, please notify Bethel Park Recreation in writing upon registration.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance at class offerings is not mandatory. The Recreation Department recommends that an attempt be made to attend as many classes as possible. Generally, skill testing only takes place in swimming and basketball programs. All advanced classes in any area are based upon the successful completion of primary or beginning-level instruction. Entrance at

an advanced level is up to the discretion of the instructor. Placement is always made with the best interests of the participant in mind.

CONDUCT

Participants are reminded that undesirable behavior or destruction of any property are reasons to expel the offender from a class or program. Parents are asked to remind children that they should not be in other areas of any building and to respect School District and Municipal property.

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

The only time you will hear from us is:

- * If there is a change in the time or day for your class
- * If the class is moved, full, or canceled

So, if it is almost time for your class and you haven't heard from our friendly staff, that's GOOD NEWS. It means YOU ARE IN! You may call us at 412-831-1328 if you wish to confirm your registration.

Board of Parks and Recreation

James Gastgeb, Chairperson
James Miller, Vice Chairperson
Joelle Salerno, Secretary
Bill Bonaccorsi - Vince Galloni
Bob McCall - Christina Murtaugh
Russ Spicuzza - Daryl Walezak

Monthly Meetings

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center unless otherwise advertised. Please contact the Recreation Office for specific meeting dates.



Department Administration
Kristen Denne, Municipal Manager
Emily Skoczlas, Interim Recreation Director/Community Center Director
Amber Armstrong, Administrative Secretary
Lindsey Sibert, Programs Coordinator
Angelina Lacek, Recreation Clerk

Dr. James Walsh, School Superintendent
Mark O'Brien, Municipal Council Liaison
Dave Espinar, Municipal Council Liaison
Lindsay Flinn, Municipal Council Liaison
Barry Christensen, School District Liaison
Timothy Moury, Recreation Board Liaison

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

NO SWIMMING ON SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND POSTED SWIM MEET DAYS!
Pool availability subject to change

DO NOT BRING VALUABLES TO THE POOL.

WE ARE HIRING SWIM INSTRUCTORS!

The Bethel Park Swim Lessons Program is looking to hire more swim instructors to help our growing program. The only requirement needed is the desire to work with and inspire the youth in our community. This is a great opportunity for anyone 15 and older who is looking to get experience working with children.

While we encourage strong swimmers to apply, it is not needed as long as you are comfortable in the water. We will teach you everything you need to know to be the best instructor you can be! For more information, please email recreation@bethelpark.net.



SWIMMING LESSONS WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING.

COMMUNITY SWIM

Friday 6:30PM – 8:30PM
Saturday, Sunday 2:30PM – 4:30PM

Daily Family Pass - \$10 for up to 5 immediate family members. (Non-resident \$13) Check in with the guard when entering the pool. Children under 14 years of age MUST be accompanied by at least one parent who is dressed to enter the water.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information

Ages: 5 and over
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$7.00
January: 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
February: 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25
March: 1, 2, 3

Location: BPHS Pool

LAP SWIMMING

Monday & Wednesday
7:30PM – 8:30PM

Swim without the crowd and do laps on your own on Monday and Wednesday evenings! Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend. The fee for nightly attendance is \$5 (non-res \$6).

Go to bethelpark.net for more information

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00
January: 3, 8, 15, 17, 24, 29, 31
February: 5, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

Location: BPHS Pool

AQUACISE

Monday & Wednesday
7:30PM – 8:30PM

Any adult (21 years of age and over) is welcome to come. You do not have to be able to swim to participate. Classes feature water exercises. Aquacise is held throughout the year on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Pathfinder School Pool. The fee for nightly attendance is \$5 for a resident or \$6 for a non-resident. Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information

Ages: 21 and over
Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00
January: 8, 10, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
February: 5, 7, 12, 14, 21, 26, 28

Location: Pathfinder School Pool

PITTSBURGH ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Artistic Swimming combines the grace of dance, the agility of gymnastics and the athleticism of swimming all in one sport. Swimmers will perform a variety of individual figures and team routines which include performances of coordinated movements (similar to dance) in time to music. This exciting sport encourages confidence, creativity, strength, flexibility, and teamwork. Instructors have competed in National/International Age Group, Intercollegiate and/or Masters Competitions. As the team progresses, swimmers will have the opportunity to compete or participate in a swim show for friends and family. USA Artistic Swimming safety protocols will be used. Swimmers do not need prior experience but should be able to swim 25 yards freestyle and backstroke (pool length). Swimmers will need a swimsuit, cap, and nose clips. Email pghartisticswim@gmail.com for more details.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 8 - 18
Resident Fee: \$50.00 Non-Res Fee: \$55.00
Twice a Week: \$70.00 Non-Res Fee: \$75.00
8 session dates

3400.470
Date: 01/09/2024 - 02/27/2024 Tue
Time: 7:30PM – 9:00PM

3400.471
Dates: 01/11/2024 - 02/29/2024 Thu
Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3400.472
Dates: 01/14/2024 - 03/03/2024 Sun
Time: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Location: BPHS Pool



COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS NEED CLEARANCES!



Interested in Coaching?
(basketball, flag football)

Interested in Volunteering as a Chaperone?
(CC Clubhouse)

Pennsylvania state law requires all individuals who have direct contact with children to have three clearances - the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check, and the FBI Federal Criminal History Record. The clearances take approximately two to three weeks for processing.

Please contact the Recreation Office about getting your clearances. You will not be able to coach or volunteer without them. Email recreation@bethelpark.net or call 412-831-6800, x127.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

'Try-It Week' @ the Community Center!

Feb. 26 - March 2, 2024

CLASSES ARE FREE!



Have you ever considered signing up for a class at the Community Center, but hesitated because you were not sure if you would like it?

Between **Sunday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, March 2, 2024**, we are offering you the opportunity to take a class for **FREE**. Don't stop at just one, try as many as you can fit in your schedule!

Keep an eye out for more information on our Recreation website and on social media. Instructors will be available to talk with you after class to answer your questions and make sure you register for the class that best fits what you are looking for.

All participating classes will be at their usual scheduled dates and times.

Join us to try a free class – what do you have to lose?

For additional information, please call the Community Center at **412-851-2910**.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

DRIVER EDUCATION

The course is conducted by Kennedy School of Driving through Bethel Park Recreation. Upon successful completion of the 30 hours of theory and 6 hours of in-car training, a certificate is given that is accepted by most insurance companies for an insurance rate discount. If you are a BPHS student, this class features the option of taking your driving test with our instructor. This counts as 1 hour of your behind-the-wheel instruction. You must complete the test prior to your high school graduation in order to take the test with our instructor.

The \$45 (*non-resident \$50*) **NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERRABLE** fee payable to Bethel Park Recreation will secure your space in the class. The fee of \$605.00 must be paid to Kennedy School of Driving on the first night of class. Class size is limited to 36 students.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 15 and over
Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
To Kennedy: \$605.00
 10 session dates

3300.100
 Dates: 03/05/2024 - 04/04/2024 Tue, Thu
 Time: 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

YOUTH THEATER

Calling beginners and experienced young actors come to the stage immediately for this theater class. Students will enjoy playing creative improv drama games to develop characters and improve skills as well as work on voice projection and enunciation. Theater terms and staging will be a part of the class. Students will perfect those skills in short skits and a play that they will rehearse and perform at the end of the classes. That performance will be held on the last day of class for family and friends.

Instructor: Adam Winter
 Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 6 - 12
Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
 6 session dates

3835.400
 Dates: 01/10/2024 - 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

SCIENCE SURPRISE

Join our Science Surprise after-school program where kids explore a new STEM topic in each class! Delve into entomology, inspect fluorescing minerals, explore simple machines, uncover the science behind the big screen, play with motorized toys, experience a static indoor storm, and embark on a nutrient hunt!
 Instructor: Mad Science

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Grades: K - 5
Resident Fee: \$70.00 Non-Res Fee: \$75.00
 4 session dates

3840.400
 Dates: 01/18/2024 - 02/08/2024 Thu
 Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

WINTER WONDERLAB PARTY

What's even colder than the North Pole? Dry Ice! The wonders of Dry Ice are on display as we demonstrate the different properties of the three common states of matter. We make a quarter shiver, turn water to ice in 30 seconds, and witness an indoor fireworks show. Children will see a variety of spectacular "bubbling potion" and participate in fascinating experiments using dry ice! Each child will make their own Sparkly Slime to take home!

Instructor: Mad Science
 Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 6 - 12
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 1 session dates

3840.401
 Grades: K-2
 Dates: 02/19/2024 Mon
 Time: 9:15AM - 12:15PM

3840.402
 Grades: 3-6
 Dates: 02/19/2024 Mon
 Time: 1:00PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

THE KNIGHT SCHOOL PITTSBURGH (CHESS)

The Chess party has arrived! Welcome to the Knight School! Where fun, inclusion, and sportsmanship come first while kids learn thought-provoking tactics on the chess board. This weekly 1-hour and 15 minute after-school camp includes TactixBands in collectible colors, and your child's very own Knight School branded chess set! Our lessons are active and engaging, making the mind-sharpening game of chess an integral and fun part of your child's week!

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 5 - 11
Resident Fee: \$115.00 Non-Res Fee: \$125.00
 6 session dates

3835.405
 Dates: 01/09/2024 - 02/13/2024 Tue
 6:00PM - 7:15PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center



ARTS & CRAFTS

ART EXPLOSION – STAY WARM WITH ART!

Children will have fun in this four-week session learning about artists and creating artwork showing the beauty of the winter season. We'll create a winter sculpture inspired by the artist Diana Parkhouse and a fun Pop Art picture of hot cocoa mugs. Children will use a variety of materials like model magic, paint, markers, colored pencils, scissors, crayons to name a few and all are included. Every week children will take home the artwork they created. Come in out of the cold and have fun with art!

Instructor: Sue Ralston
 Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 4 - 7
Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
 4 session dates

3805.400
 Dates: 01/22/2024 - 02/12/2024 Mon
 Time: 5:15PM - 6:15PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

After registering for a class, please make sure you receive a registration receipt to confirm attendance!

ART EXPLOSION – DRAWING THE BEAUTY OF WINTER!

Children will have fun in this four-week session learning about a variety of artists and letting them and their artwork inspire our winter masterpieces. We'll learn about the artist Graham Franciose and let his misty forest pictures inspire our winter forest. We'll create a winter sculpture inspired by Diana Parkhouse and let Andy Warhol inspire our Pop Art hot cocoa drawing. Children will use a variety of materials like watercolor paint, tempera, colored pencils, model magic, markers, to name a few, all are included. Every week children will take home their completed artwork. Come in out of the cold and have fun with art!

Instructor: Sue Ralston

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 6 - 12

Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
4 session dates

3805.401
Dates: 01/22/2024 - 02/12/2024 Mon
Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

CANVAS CRAZINESS

Strolling through the cold winter days with warm art: All supplies included except your awesome imagination! Miss K sneaks in a little foundation while students create in a super fun way!!! Dress to get messy!

Crazy Colorful Canvas Class- fun theme each class creating a variety of super cute animals in fun settings! We will begin with the 2024 new year Dragon! Acrylic painting on an 11x17 canvas.

Instructor: Karen Hartman

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 6 - 14

Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00
4 session dates

3805.412
Dates: 01/11/2024 - 02/22/2024
Time: 6:10PM - 7:10PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center
No Class: Jan 18, Feb 1, Feb 15

CARTOONING WORKSHOP

Silly Cartooning and Drawing- bring your awesome imagination and silly jokes to create super fun themed cartoons! We will name our cartoons and share our short funny stories about our characters! Superheroes, villains, holiday characters, silly animals and much more!!!

Instructor: Karen Hartman

Ages: 6 - 14

Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00
4 session dates

3805.413
Dates: 01/11/2024 - 02/22/2024 Thu
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center
No Class: Jan 18, Feb 1, Feb 15

PRIVATE/SEMI-PRIVATE DRAWING CLASS

Thursdays from 4:00PM - 5:00PM and/or 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Private Lessons for all ages! Bring your own supplies or use ours! An 8x10 sketchbook is suggested. Customize your lessons while learning foundation in a fun and relaxed way to enhance the student's creativity and art skills!!!

Instructor: Karen Hartman

Ages: 6 and over

Resident Fee: \$25.00 Non-Res Fee: \$30.00
1 session date

3805.404
Dates: 01/11/2024 Thu
Time: 4:00PM - 5:00PM

3805.405
Dates: 01/11/2024 Thu
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

3805.406
Dates: 01/25/2024 Thu
Time: 4:00PM - 5:00PM

3805.407
Dates: 01/25/2024 Thu
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

3805.408
Dates: 02/08/2024 Thu
Time: 4:00PM - 5:00PM

3805.409
Dates: 02/08/2024 Thu
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

3805.410
Dates: 02/22/2024 Thu
Time: 4:00PM - 5:00PM

3805.411
Dates: 02/22/2024 Thu
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

DANCE

SOUTH HILL STARS - SPECIAL NEEDS COLOR GUARD

The South Hills Stars Color Guard was created in the Spring of 2022. It is open for anyone to join no matter what abilities you may have. Learn to spin flags, use swing flags, twirl ribbons, dance with pom-poms and hoops, and show off your talents when we perform as a group. We participate in Bethel Park events as well as other performances around the Pittsburgh area. It is a great opportunity to become a Star! We are also looking for volunteers. We cannot wait for you to join us this season!

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 10 and over
Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
12 session dates

3810.100
Dates: 03/04/2024 - 05/20/2024 Mon
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center
No Class: April 1

BEGINNER BATON & POM WITH PASSION TWIRL AND POMS

Begin to twirl with the basics! A great starter class for the beginner baton twirler.

Ages 4 - 10. This class is held at Ben Franklin Elementary on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7pm. Learn tosses, tricks, marching, twirls and more. Dance with poms to music and have fun at this intro kinder level class. Interested in becoming a high school majorette or a competitive twirler? Dance attire is preferred, but not required. Tennis shoes or jazz shoes preferred. Students should bring their own baton, poms are provided. If you have questions about joining the class, the Passion Twirl & Poms team, or where to get a baton, please contact Leann at passiontwirlandpoms@gmail.com or 412-584-8957. Students will be taught by former Bethel Park Majorette, **Leann Chamberlin**. Miss Leann is a Bethel Park graduate and the head coach of the award-winning Passion Twirl and Poms local competition twirling team. Leann is a former Modernette twirler and coach, and has been twirling for over 30 years. Her accomplishments include Gold medalist in strut and duet in 2000. Multiple gold medals with the Modernettes in Corp, Gold and Silver with Poms Teams. She is the Preteen Grand National Twirling Champion in 2000 and has multiple state, regional and other national titles. Leann was also Miss TU World Majorette in ages 9-11, 12-14, and 15+.

When she's not teaching baton, she can be found teaching classes at The Little Gym and is currently the majorette advisor for Belle Vernon High School Marching Band.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 4 - 12

Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
6 session dates

3810.401
Dates: 01/10/2024 - 02/14/2024 Wed
Time: 6:15PM - 7:00PM

Location: Ben Franklin Elementary

FITNESS & EXERCISE

FIT KIDS

Ignore the cold weather outside and come inside to play! Make new friends while playing fun games, running races, bouncing, skipping, hopping, and jumping away. Play and laugh our way to being a fit kid!

Instructor: Cortney Sweeney

Ages: 5 - 8

Resident Fee: \$30.00 Non-Res Fee: \$35.00
6 session dates

3820.400
Dates: 01/08/2024 - 02/12/2024 Mon
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED



CHILDRENS BEGINNER KARATE - TANG SOO DO

Students will learn Tang Soo Do, the traditional Korean martial art from instructors with CS Kim Karate. Instructors will teach students the basics of martial arts while also incorporating important life skills. Balance, flexibility and overall improved physical fitness will be cornerstones as well as building confidence, concentration, discipline and respect.

* Uniform fee of \$35 due to instructor at first class

Instructor: Master Leccia/C.S. Kim Karate Instructor

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 6 - 18
Resident Fee: \$50.00 Non-Res Fee: \$55.00
 6 session dates

3820.401
 Dates: 01/13/2024 - 02/17/2024 Sat
 Time: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

**Location: C.S. Kim Karate Bethel Park
 4705 Library Rd., Suite 2
 Bethel Park, PA 15102**

SPORTS

AMAZING ATHLETES JUMPBUNCH – TODDLER

Amazing Athletes JumpBunch encourages physical activity through play, exploration and movement. Our movement-based curriculum is specially designed to help build self-confidence while developing fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, balance & more! Amazing Athletes JumpBunch provides your toddler the opportunity to explore a wide range of age-appropriate sports equipment, while also reinforcing the basics like colors, shapes, animals, counting and more! Amazing Athletes JumpBunch is the ideal way to start your child on the path to a healthy and happy life!

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 months - 3 years
Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00
 6 session dates

3815.407
 Dates: 01/09/2024- 02/13/2024 Tue
 Time: 9:45AM - 10:15AM

3815.409
 Dates: 01/13/2024 - 02/17/2024 Sat
 Time: 9:30AM - 10:00AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

AMAZING ATHLETES JUMPBUNCH – PRE-K

Sports, smiles, fitness, and fun! Young athletes are introduced to a variety of activities - from popular sports such as tennis, basketball, and volleyball to fun fitness activities such as parachute, balancing act, and obstacle courses. Come see what being fit and having fun is all about!

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 3 - 5
Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00
 6 session dates

3815.408
 Dates: 01/09/2024 - 02/13/2024 Tue
 Time: 10:30AM - 11:15AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER

Children will learn the skills, moves, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. This program emphasizes motor skills, social and listening skills, as well as body awareness. No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play!

Coach Sam Bellin is a former standout college soccer player at the University of Georgia and currently highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice High School Boys' Soccer Team with 20+ years of experience coaching youth sports.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 3 - 6
Resident Fee: \$65.00 Non-Res Fee: \$70.00
 6 session dates

3815.411
 Dates: 01/12/2024 - 02/16/2024 Fri
 Time: 10:00AM - 10:30AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center



PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

Register at least 24-hours in advance of program start! Programs not meeting the minimum number of students will be canceled. Online registrations are highly encouraged at www.bethelpark.net

After registering for a class, please make sure you receive a registration receipt to confirm attendance!

MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER - PM

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport, with extra focus on developing proper technique, playing competitive games, and learning to be a good team player! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. Coach Sam Bellin is a former standout college soccer player at the University of Georgia and currently highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice Boys High School soccer.

Here are some highlights of the program:

Curriculum - Mighty Kicks Pittsburgh serves over 1000 children yearly in over 20 locations using an age-appropriate methodology including games, drills, exercises, stories with pictures and more!

Coaching - All of your classes will be led by Coach Sam, well-respected and much-liked for his 20+ years of relentlessly positive, high-energy, child-centered and expert sports coaching. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field. More information is available at www.mightykickspittsburgh.net. No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 5 - 10
Resident Fee: \$75.00 Non-Res Fee: \$80.00
 6 session dates

3815.432
 Dates: 01/09/2024 - 02/13/2024 Tue
 Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center



BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE FOIL FENCING

Experience and enjoy the fun and challenging Olympic sport of foil fencing. The introductory and intermediate level instruction progressively establishes fundamental skills needed for successful fencing and great fitness. Sessions include instruction and practice bouts. Note: All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors. Students will be required to wear comfortable pants and non-marking athletic shoes. Shorts or jeans are not permitted.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 7 and over
Resident Fee: \$57.00 Non-Res Fee: \$62.00
 6 session dates

3815.401
 Dates: 01/11/2024 - 02/15/2024 Thu
 Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

ADVANCED FOIL FENCING

Take your fencing to a new level! This instructional class focuses on techniques, fitness, and a winning strategy to help the dedicated fencer succeed at an advanced competitive level in this martial art. Sessions include instruction and practice bouts. Prerequisites include a minimum of 1 year of fencing experience and approval of the instructors. Note: All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors - students will be required to wear comfortable pants and non-marking athletic shoes. Shorts or jeans are not permitted.

*Register for additional Monday Bouting Practice for extra practice and take your fencing skills to a higher level.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 11 and over
Resident Fee: \$80.00 Non-Res Fee: \$85.00
 6 session dates

3815.402
 Dates: 01/11/2024 – 02/15/2024 Thu
 Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

Register at least 24-hours in advance of program start! Programs not meeting the minimum number of students will be canceled. Online registrations are highly encouraged at www.bethelpark.net



The Award-Winning
 Bethel Park High School Music Department
 and Music Boosters would like to say
"THANK YOU"
 to the Community for your continued
 support of our hoagie sales.
 The Music Department is planning to travel
 to Chicago, IL in the Spring of 2024!

The dates for hoagie sales this year are
 Saturdays:
Jan. 20
March 2
April 13

Stay up to date and bookmark our Music
 Department website – bpsdmusic.weebly.com
 and the Music Booster website -
bpmusicboosters.com.



Saturday, Feb. 10
Daddy/Daughter Evening
7 - 9 p.m.

\$30 per couple (\$10 for each additional daughter)

Bethel Park Community Center

Princesses should be escorted by "Fathers or Father Figures."

All ages welcome. This is a dress up event.

You Must register before Thursday, Feb. 1!

Create a beautiful memory for your family by attending this memorable evening at our annual Daddy Daughter Event! Dads can whisk their little princesses off to an enchanted evening where they will be the "Belle of the Ball!"

This exciting evening will include a DJ featuring special dances for dads and their daughters. We'll also have light refreshments/desserts, activities and so much more! And, as a special bonus, we'll have a photo booth area set up for taking keepsake photos to commemorate this special evening. Be sure to get your tickets early so you don't miss out on all the fun! If you have any questions regarding the event, please call Lindsey @ 412-831-1328, x127.





Bethel Park Recreation

Want to be the first to know when we add new programs?



Join our NEW email lists and get the inside scoop!



Use the QR code to sign up for Adult Programs, Youth Programs, or Special Events!



FARMERS' MARKET

The Bethel Park Farmers' Market had yet another fantastic season in 2023! With our larger lineup, bigger footprint and increased customer traffic, you could definitely say this year was bigger and better than ever! Of course, the Market brought back many of your favorite vendors, while adding some new and exciting vendors to round out the lineup. We are also pleased to announce that we are once again in the running for the Best of the Best Farmers' Market in the Observer Reporter Community Choice Awards. As always, the Market owes much of its success to our loyal shoppers and fans! Thank you for attending week after week, rain or shine, hot or cold, to support your local vendors!





ADULT PROGRAMS

'Try-It Week' @ the Community Center!

Feb. 26 - March 2, 2024

CLASSES ARE FREE!



Have you ever considered signing up for a class at the Community Center, but hesitated because you were not sure if you would like it?

Between **Sunday, February 26 and Saturday, March 2, 2024**, we are offering you the opportunity to take a class for **FREE**. Don't stop at just one, try as many as you can fit in your schedule!

Keep an eye out for more information on our Recreation Website and on social media. Instructors will be available to talk with you after class to answer your questions and make sure you register for the class that best fits what you are looking for.

All participating classes will be at their usual scheduled dates and times.

Join us to try a free class – what do you have to lose?

For additional information, please call the Community Center at **412-851-2910**.

FITNESS & EXERCISE

TOTAL BODY BOOT CAMP

Total Body Boot Camp is an intense boot camp style class designed for men and women of all ages and all fitness levels. This class will work your entire body through resistance training, body weight exercises, balance and stability moves, core work, and cardio. Students just getting back to workouts will be shown appropriate modifications to make their workout safe but just as effective! Every class will be a new workout that will leave you feeling strong and energized! Get ready to work hard and sweat it out with Cortney!

Instructor: Cortney Sweeney

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$45.00 Non-Res Fee: \$50.00
 6 session dates

3920.419
 Dates: 01/08/2024 – 2/12/2024 Mon
 Time: 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

POWER YOGA

Power Yoga is designed for all levels in mind. You may go at whatever speed suits you! Challenge yourself with a blend of Pilates and Yoga, leaning more on the Yoga side. Stretching, energizing yoga poses and relaxation are the focus for this class. Stretch and meditation are done in the final portion of the class hour. Bring your own mat, water and towel.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 6 session dates

3920.422
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

ADVANCED POWER YOGA

This class is a continuation of Power Yoga. Still a blend of Yoga and Pilates stretches and poses, with an emphasis on taking your practice to the next level. It is recommended to take at least one session of Power Yoga before signing up for Advanced. Bring your own mat, water and towel.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 6 session dates

3920.423
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 7:05PM – 8:05PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

PLYOGA

Cardio "bursts" combined with Yoga elements merge to make a super fun fitness experience! PLYOGA participants can fall in line with timing and intensity that fits their fitness level. PLYOGA is a combination of Plyometric movements and Yoga. Participants are able to work towards cardiovascular goals, strength and Yoga poses. A fantastic blend of everything fitness! Bring your own mat and water.

Instructor: Christi Fredrick

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 6 session dates

3920.424
 Dates: 01/11/2024 – 02/15/2024 Thu
 Time: 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

After registering for a class, please make sure you receive a registration receipt to confirm attendance!

ZUMBA® GOLD

Want an instant Mood Lifter!!! If you are having a bad day at work or a stressful day at home...STOP. It's time to Zumba®! 60 minutes a week that's all it takes. Commit to one or even better two hours a week for you. Regularly scheduled exercise has been shown to have great mental health benefits too. Remember to take care of yourself and not forget "you" are important too. Join some of the best people in the South Hills area on their way to a healthier lifestyle. Whether you have been taking class since the beginning or are just getting started on this wonderful journey the time to sign up is now. You will soon be soaring with energy and enjoying music in a fun fitness party. All levels welcomed. Whatever your goal, this is one resolution you can stick with!!

Instructor: Kathy Raeder

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
Twice a Week Fee: \$60.00 Non-Res Fee: \$65.00
 6 session dates

3920.406
 Dates: 01/09/2024 – 02/13/2024 Tue
 Time: 7:00PM – 8:00PM

3920.407
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 9:30AM – 10:30AM

3920.408
 Dates: 01/11/2024 – 02/15/2024 Thu
 Time: 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

ZUMBA® GOLD FOR ACTIVE SENIORS

Men and women alike are enjoying this adapted program with the same great fun and music as a regular Zumba® class. An ideal class for the active senior or someone new to exercising. This is a scaled back exercise program designed especially for seniors and beginners. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. The goal of this class is to move a little and have a lot of fun!! Experience is not required.

Instructor: Kathy Raeder

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$30.00 Non-Res Fee: \$35.00
Twice a Week Fee: \$50.00 Non-Res Fee: \$55.00
 6 session dates

3920.420
 Dates: 01/08/2024 – 02/12/2024 Mon
 Time: 10:35AM – 11:15AM

3920.421
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 10:35AM – 11:15AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

T'AI-CHI BEGINNER

This traditional Yang Tai-Chi Chuan is for the beginning student as well as the student who wants to work on the first 1/3 of the form. In this class you will learn the principles in order to develop better balance, coordination and posture.

No prior experience is required. Wear comfortable clothes and slippers or socks.

Instructor: Tamara Stark

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$61.00 Non-Res Fee: \$66.00
Twice a Week: \$91.00 Non-Res Fee: \$96.00
 6 session dates

3920.403
 Dates: 01/09/2024 – 02/13/2024 Tue
 Time: 6:00PM – 7:00PM

3920.404
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 09:45AM – 10:45AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

T'AI-CHI INTERMEDIATE

This class is designed for students who have previous experience in a Tai Chi class and want to further their knowledge and experience. Students will work on postures past the first third of the form. Instructor recommendation is required to enroll in this course.

Instructor: Tamara Stark

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$61.00 Non-Res Fee: \$66.00
 6 session dates

3920.405
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 10:45AM – 11:45AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

SENSE HANDS

In this class you will learn the "internal" system of Tai-Chi. When you practice you develop energy without tenseness and acquire a more heightened awareness of yourself and other players. The principles learned in the form are used at a much higher level as a soft martial art. This class is open to all students who have learned the form.

Instructor: Tamara Stark

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$61.00 Non-Res Fee: \$66.00
Twice a Week: \$100.00 Non-Res Fee: \$110.00
 6 session dates

3920.435
 Dates: 01/11/2024 – 02/15/2024 Thu
 Time: 10:15AM – 11:15AM

3920.436
 Dates: 01/12/2024 – 02/16/2024 Fri
 Time: 10:15AM – 11:15AM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

SPORTS

PICKLEBALL

Men and women, boys and girls ages 13 and over can register for our recreational Pickleball program at the Bethel Park Community Center gym. This is one of the fastest growing sports in the US combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Pickleball is a low-impact sport played on a court smaller than the size of a tennis court. General knowledge of game rules and beginner skill level is needed as this is not an instructional class. Players must be able to bend to pick up balls and move forward and backward to play. You may register for a maximum of 2 days per week. Call **412-851-2910** for more information.

REGISTRATION INFO: Registration is open to RESIDENTS ONLY December 4, 9:00 AM. Non-residents may begin registering on December 7, 9:00 AM.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 13 and over
Resident Fee: \$30.00 Non-Res Fee: \$35.00
 10 session dates

3915.400
 Dates: 01/08/2024 – 02/12/2024 Mon
 Time: 12:00PM – 2:15PM

3915.401
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 12:00PM – 2:15PM

3915.402
 Dates: 01/12/2024 – 02/16/2024 Fri
 Time: 12:00PM – 2:15PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

LADIES VOLLEYBALL

This is a NON-TEACHING recreational program that plays according to PIAA high school rules. Players should have knowledge of volleyball rules and skills at either intermediate or advanced level. This is a fun ladies' night out to meet new people and enjoy some exercise. If you can only attend occasionally, there is a nightly drop-in fee.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register

Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$30.00 Non-Res Fee: \$35.00
 6 session dates

3915.403
 Dates: 01/08/2024 – 02/12/2024 Mon
 Time: 7:30PM – 9:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Men play on Wednesday. Pick-up Men's Volleyball. Prior experience is not necessary, but players are expected to follow official USA indoor volleyball rules. Everyone must register and prepay to participate.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register
 Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 8 session dates

3915.404
 Dates: 01/03/2024 – 02/21/2024 Wed
 Time: 8:00PM – 10:00PM

Location: IMS

BASKETBALL

Men play on Thursday evenings. Limited spots are available. Everyone MUST register and prepay to participate.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register
 Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$40.00 Non-Res Fee: \$45.00
 8 session dates

3915.405
 Dates: 01/04/2024 – 02/22/2024 Thu
 Time: 8:00PM – 10:00PM

Location: IMS

COUCH POTATO BASKETBALL

Men play on Wednesday evenings. Limited spots are available. Everyone MUST register and prepay to participate.

Go to bethelpark.net for more information and to register
 Ages: 18 and over
Resident Fee: \$30.00 Non-Res Fee: \$35.00
 6 session dates

3915.406
 Dates: 01/10/2024 – 02/14/2024 Wed
 Time: 8:00PM – 10:00PM

Location: Neil Armstrong Middle School



*Happy Holidays from
Bethel Park Recreation!*



GOLD CARD CLUB

Dues: \$6.00

Ages: 60yrs and over

Gold Card Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the Bethel Park Community Center.

Sign-in begins at 12:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact **Cindy Carfagno** at 412-831-1913 or t2323@comcast.net.

The Gold Card Club, a social and fellowship organization for seniors, was organized by the Bethel Park Recreation Department for the benefit of Bethel Park residents who are 60 years of age and over, or a resident on disability retirement and not less than 50 years of age. A spouse not less than 55 years of age may join with his/her spouse if he/she meets the 60-year age minimum. The title of the GOLD CARD CLUB came from the color of the membership card, not for playing card games.

Annual membership dues are \$6 per person per calendar year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Annual dues shall be paid beginning at the January general meeting. Renewals paid after March 31 incur a late penalty. New members will be accepted at any time during the calendar year. You MUST be a current Bethel Park resident in order to join the Gold Card Club.

Monthly meetings are normally held at the Bethel Park Community Center on the second Thursday of each month (*except July and August*) at 1 p.m. Sign-in begins at 12:30 p.m. After a brief meeting, enjoy excellent entertainment, light refreshments and several games of bingo. We also have an indoor summer picnic each year, an Anniversary luncheon and a Christmas luncheon, both held at outside banquet facilities.

Members of the Gold Card Club may also take advantage of the many bus trips scheduled through the year as well as a bowling league.

For bowling information, please contact **Tom Noonan** at 412-913-2942.

A monthly newsletter, prepared by the Corresponding Secretary, is sent to all members who are CURRENT on their membership dues.

Questions regarding membership should be directed to **Cindy Carfagno** at 412-831-1913 or t2323@comcast.net.

BETHEL PARK RECREATION PRESENTS

ACTIVITES, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MORE!

CC

33

CLUBHOUSE

FEBRUARY 9TH

APRIL 26TH

7-9PM

CC CLUBHOUSE (PREVIOUSLY NAMS JAM) IS A FUN EVENT FOR KIDS IN 5TH AND 6TH GRADE - JOIN US FOR GAMES, PRIZES, CRAFTS, AND MOVIES!

\$5 PER PERSON - PARENTS MUST PICK UP INSIDE THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE END OF THE NIGHT!

BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
5151 PARK AVE
BETHEL PARK, PA

OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

BETHEL PARK BASEBALL



Bethel Park Baseball is BP's premier youth rec baseball league for ages 4-18. We offer recreation winter training to help your child prepare for the upcoming season. We also offer spring recreation baseball from T-Ball to Legion for everyone in Bethel Park. Rec Winter Training will take place in February and March. Spring Rec Baseball registration opens on December 1st and will close on March 1st. The Rec Spring season will start April 1st and end in mid-June.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.bethelparkbaseball.org. Create an account to receive our email blasts providing updates throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact us at bethelparkbaseballinfo@gmail.com.

TENNIS



Tennis is through the Upper St. Clair Tennis Development Program. Dates are as follows:

Junior clinics:

Level 3.0 and up- Jan. 15 - April 21, 2024 (13 weeks)

Level 1 & 2 - Feb. 12 - April 21, 2024 (9 weeks)

Adult clinics:

Level 1 - 4: Feb. 12 - April 21, 2024 (9 weeks)

Call to register and direct questions to 412-851-2630 or email: tennis@usctdp.com.

SPECIAL INTEREST

PAVILION PERMITS

Fee \$30.00

Any resident of Bethel Park may reserve selected picnic areas at Simmons Park or Village Green Park. These areas include a shelter and several picnic tables. Permits are requested through RecDesk, our online software, at <https://bethelpark.net/parks-and-recreation/> starting March 4 through Oct. 22, 2024

Once we receive your request, we will let you know if your date/time is available.

All Park and Municipal rules must be followed. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are permitted in any of the parks. You must take your garbage with you if you rent a pavilion during a weekend. The permit gives restricted use for the picnic area only. The tennis courts, sand volleyball court and ball fields are NOT included on the permit. Water and restrooms are available in both parks. Parks are only available for rent from May 1 - Oct. 31. THERE IS A NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE \$30.00 CHARGE FOR A PAVILION PERMIT.



ARE YOU A YOUTH SPORT VOLUNTEER COACH?

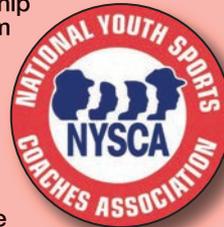
The *National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA)* is a membership organization and the most widely used volunteer coach training program in the nation, having trained more than 3 million coaches since 1981.

The NYSCA volunteer coach training program is designed to sensitize volunteer coaches to their responsibilities and hold them accountable to a strict Code of Conduct defined by the NYSCA Coaches' Code of Ethics Pledge.

The NYSCA Introduction to Coaching Youth Sports website is one of the most comprehensive resources for volunteer coaches, no matter what sport



you're coaching. The website is designed to improve your understanding in all the important areas of youth coaching. Coaches who are trained and educated on the many different aspects involved with coaching kids are best prepared to provide participants with a fun-filled, safe, and rewarding experience. Please consider completing this valuable online training at www.nays.org.



NO COOK TUESDAYS!



No Cook Tuesdays returns to the Bethel Park Community Center on March 12, 2024! This weekly event has been a resident favorite for the past few years, growing

in both size and popularity. We will continue to feature some of your favorite farmers' market vendors while introducing new local food trucks as well. Each Tuesday, three local food trucks will sell dinners "to go" from 4-7pm. Trucks rotate weekly to provide customers a variety of tastes! Expect to find pierogis, tacos, Greek food, sandwiches, mac and cheese, BBQ and more!

Please follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BethelParkandRecAndCommunityCenter> for weekly updates on participating vendors. You can also join our mailing list at bethelparkfarmersmarket.com to be the first to know about these events! Call 412-851-2910 or 412-831-1328 for more information. Let great local vendors do the cooking so you don't have to!

LINDSEY SIBERT*(cont. from pg. xx)*

"I want everyone to be excited to be involved with our department," she said.

One of the newest programs Sibert's created is the Winter Market.

"The Winter Market is going really well!" said Sibert. "We had about 22 vendors for the first date with most coming from our Farmers' Market and a few new ones joining as well. The Winter Market offers those who love our Farmers' Market the opportunity to see some of their favorite vendors year round! For the holidays, the vendors will be offering a lot of holiday-themed items for shopping and gift giving as well as bringing in items for special holiday dinners!"

The next Winter Market will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at the Community Center from 4-7 p.m. For remaining dates, see below.

To reach Sibert, email lsibert@bethelpark.net or call 412-831-6800, x127.



SLASHSTICKS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:



**BETHEL PARK'S
FUNNY
FUNDRAISER**

TICKET \$40

BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
5151 PARK AVE BETHEL PARK, PA 15102

JAN 6TH * DOORS OPEN 6:00 * DINNER 6:45 * SHOW 8:00

**BETHEL PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND
BETHEL PARK RECREATION**

Includes Dinner Buffett, Soft Drinks & Mixers
21 and over/BYOB

TICKET AVAILABLE : BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**Plan to
Attend!**

Bethel Park Winter Market

BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
(5151 Park Ave., Bethel Park 15102)
4 - 7 p.m.

TUESDAYS
Dec. 19, Jan. 23 & Feb. 27

VENDORS:
Forever Green Family Farm, Boyd and Blair, Country Hammer Moonshine, hGrace Confections, La Vigneta Winery, Lil Debby's Delights, Michael T's Bakery, the Olive Tap, and more!





DAY CAMP

2024

June 10 - Aug. 2

All Day:

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Morning session optional
drop off at 7 a.m.

Afternoon session late
pickup up to 6 p.m.

Morning:

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Afternoon:

12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**THREE
SESSIONS!**



REGISTER NOW ONLINE!

Our Recreation Summer Day Camp Program for children ages 6-11 is now open for registration! Each week-long session will have a different theme with related activities that equals lots of fun for your child! Activities will include arts, crafts and sports as well as combined camp activities like the Camp Carnival and weekly field trips.

REGISTER AT bethelpark.net STARTING JAN. 2, 2024!

No Camp on July 4, 2023 * Starting dates are subject to change based on the school calendar.

BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Call 412-851-2910 for room reservations or other information.

The Bethel Park Community Center continues to be the center of activity in the community. Frequently reserved for social and professional functions, the facility is well known throughout the South Hills. The Community Center, with 40,495 sq. ft. of space, includes areas for special events and meetings, a gymnasium and locker area, an exercise/dance studio, walking track and a separate classroom. The large multi-purpose room has seating to accommodate 245 and is capable of being divided into three separate rooms. The Community Center also includes a lounge, catering-style kitchen & stage. Walking trails, playground equipment, and a lighted multi-purpose field are situated on the Center's grounds.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR ALL
COMMUNITY CENTER USERS,
CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE UNDER
DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.

Membership Fees & Renewals

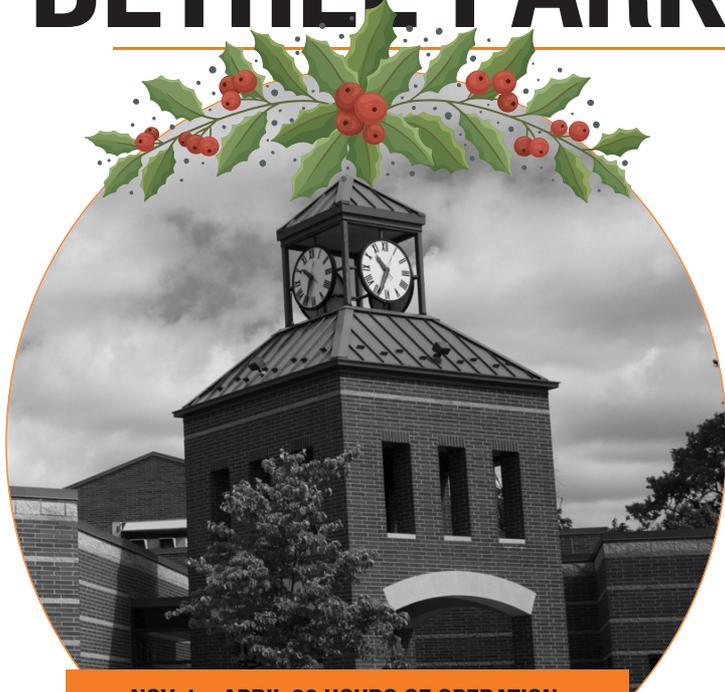
A membership card is required to use the Bethel Park Community Center *Gymnasium and Walking Track*. Both residents and non-residents can purchase 12-month memberships at the Community Center during normal business hours.

All memberships can be done online through our RecDesk software. Please visit www.bethelpark.net. Once payment is received through our system, an identification photo will be kept on file for each member upon your first visit. New members will receive both a wallet size member card as well as a small key tag card.

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE UNDER
DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

Annual Membership/Renewal:	Resident	Nonresident
Youth (13 - 17 years old)	\$ 5	\$ 125
Adult (18 - 59 years old)	\$ 10	\$ 150
Family	\$ 25	\$ 250
Senior Adult (60+)	\$ 5	\$ 80
Day pass: Individual	\$ 1	\$ 10

To purchase day passes, you must sign a waiver and provide a photo ID to prove residency.



NOV. 1 – APRIL 30 HOURS OF OPERATION:
MONDAY - SATURDAY, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.
SUNDAY, 12 - 6 P.M.

MAY 1 – OCT. 31 HOURS OF OPERATION:
MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SUNDAY, 12 P.M. - 6 P.M.

The open gym schedule is available on the RecDesk calendar on the Municipality's website and is available at the front desk.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Gym memberships expire 12 months after they were issued.

Please remember to renew your membership at <https://www.bethelpark.net>.



COMMUNITY CENTER ADULT AND YOUTH CLUBS

Vintage Radio Players

Players meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Membership is open to all interested adults 18 and over. This group rehearses and presents re-enactments of the radio shows from the 1940's and 50's, complete with sound effects and commercials.

For additional information contact **Jeanne Miller** at 412-600-9092.

Bethel Artist Guild

Membership is open to Bethel Park Artists of any medium. Club members' work is displayed at the Center throughout the year. Monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday** of the month in February, March, April, May, September, October, and December at 12:30 p.m. Call the Artist Guild at 412-835-7379 for additional information.

Call the Bethel Park Community Center at 412-851-2910 for information on all our activities. If you have a special interest and would be interested in helping to form a new club or activity group, contact the Community Center.

RENTAL PROCEDURES

RENTAL PROCEDURES

Reserving a room at the Bethel Park Community Center for your next event is a simple, straightforward process and may be done up to a six months in advance. However, it is recommended that you reserve your space early as dates fill up quickly!

- Requests for rentals must be requested through our RecDesk software. The RecDesk portal can be found on www.bethelpark.net. There will be a requirement of an electronic signature required for all forms necessary.
- Within five business days, you'll be able to see if your request was approved via the RecDesk online portal.
- If the space is available and approved, you'll be sent an invoice for the amount that is due via the RecDesk online portal.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Fifty percent of total rental fees is due as soon as the rental is approved and first invoice is provided.
- The remaining 50% is due 30 days prior to your event.
- A refundable security deposit (*cash or check only*) and room layout is due ten days prior to your event.

**Please note that while we want your event to be a success, failure to meet any payment or layout deadlines may result in rental cancellation. Fees paid will not be refunded.

CANCELLATION POLICY/FEE'S

If you need to cancel your event, your request **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Community Center Director. Cancellation fees follow:

- Cancellations received in writing more than 60 days prior to the scheduled date will receive a refund of 50% of initial rental payment, less a \$5 processing fee.
- No refund will be issued if written cancellation is received less than 60 days prior to event.

OTHER RENTAL NOTES

- Any use of the Community Center which requires Municipal staff to stay after the scheduled closing time shall be charged an additional \$40 per hour for any portion of an hour that may be needed.
- Should your event need an alcohol permit for 150 persons or more, as a requirement, there will be additional security personnel fee.
- Rental rate includes the set-up of tables and chairs.
- Renters will be responsible to visit the Community Center ten days in advance of their event to sign-off on all seating/room arrangements. The security/damage deposit should also be paid at this time. Rate: \$100 per area rented.

ROOM RENTAL FEES

RENTAL RATES LISTED ARE FOR BETHEL PARK RESIDENTS. NON-RESIDENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS NOT LOCATED IN BETHEL PARK MUST CALL THE CENTER AT 412-851-2910 FOR RENTAL RATES.

AREA	RATE	CAPACITY
A	\$25 per hour	49
B	\$50 per hour	148
C	\$25 per hour	49
CLASSROOM	\$25 per hour	49
A B C	\$75 per hour	245
Catering Kitchen	\$100 per event	
Stage	\$50 per event	(With Area B only)
Alcohol Permit	*\$50 per room	

*If event w/alcohol has 150 persons or more, security personnel fee will be a minimum charge of \$240.00.

Room Rental fees listed are per hour. **Keep in mind that rental hours must include the entire time that you need access to the rental space beginning with set-up, including event time and through clean-up.**

All rentals require a minimum 4-hour reservation.

RENTAL RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Community Center Facilities

*Indicates rentable areas

Multipurpose Room This exceptional room can be divided into three separate sections to accommodate small and medium groups. With dividers open, the room can accommodate large group functions. The Multipurpose Room is perfect for wedding receptions, showers, banquets, parties, meetings or other special events.

Catering Kitchen Add this room to your rental when meals will be served at your event. Kitchen includes commercial ovens, grill, refrigerator, freezer, coffee makers, microwave and dishwasher.

Theatrical Stage Does your event need a stage? The Stage may be rented in conjunction with the rental of Room B.

Lobby Bookshelves are located in the lobby, across from the main desk containing a lending library of puzzles and books available for residents of all ages to borrow.

Lounge Equipped with a kitchenette, chairs, TV, magazines and game tables, the lounge provides a comfortable atmosphere to relax, read, enjoy a card game with friends or watch television. An adult or guardian must accompany guests under age 13.

Classroom This room includes couches, TV, sink and counter area, restroom, along with tables and chairs. The Classroom may be used for small group rentals, youth and adult Recreation classes or meetings.

Gymnasium Includes one full-length and one ½ basketball court; can also be converted to three ½ sized courts. It has a total of eight basketball hoops. Also features three ½ size volleyball courts.

Exercise Studio A bright and open mirrored area to accommodate a variety of fitness and dance classes.

Elevated Walking Track Features a 1/12 mile cushioned walking track that overlooks the gymnasium.

Day Lockers May be used during your visit to the Community Center. No locks are permitted to remain overnight.



Dean Streater

Holiday Concert

Sunday, Dec. 10

Performance starts at 2:30 p.m.
Bethel Park Community Center

Come early as parking is limited!

Community Band South

Directed By Jim Bennett and Max Gonano

Bethel Park High School's Top 21 Vocal Ensemble

Directed By Todd Kuczawa

Handbell Ringers of Southminster Presbyterian Church

Directed by Richard Pinkerton

Admission is free but donations are accepted to benefit the Bethel Park Community

Call **412-851-2910** for more information.





SilverSneakers® at the Bethel Park Community Center!

SilverSneakers® programs are offered at the Bethel Park Community Center. The **SilverSneakers®** Fitness Program is the nation's leading fitness program designed exclusively for older adults. Regular participation in the program has been proven to help older adults manage their health and increase strength, balance, and endurance.

SilverSneakers® is a benefit offered to members of many Medicare plans across the U.S. If you are part of a Medicare health plan or if you are a group retiree, you may already have the **SilverSneakers®** benefit. There are over 5.8 million Medicare-eligible members who qualify for **SilverSneakers®**. There is no cost for **SilverSneakers®** eligible adults to become members and participate. You may already have **SilverSneakers®** available to you!

SilverSneakers® offers three easy ways to enroll. Simply choose one of the following options that best suits your lifestyle and begin enjoying your benefit today!

- Simply take your **SilverSneakers®** Member ID card to the Bethel Park Community Center.
- No **SilverSneakers®** card? Bring your health plan ID card with you to the Community Center. Our staff will check your eligibility.
- Visit the Community Center and our staff can check on your eligibility by using your name, address, phone number, and birth date.

The **SilverSneakers®** Fitness Program is an innovative and fun health/exercise program helping older adults live healthy, active lifestyles. **Get fit, have fun, make new friends!**

Unlock the door to greater independence and a healthier life with **SilverSneakers®**. Benefits will include: Customized **SilverSneakers®** classes designed exclusively for older adults who want to improve their strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance.

SilverSneakers® members can take advantage of the climate controlled, elevated indoor walking track just by swiping their **SilverSneakers®** membership card. The 1/12-mile track features 3 lanes for fitness lap walking or running. Track is open for use:

May 1 – Oct. 31 hours of operation are:

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, Noon - 6 p.m.

Nov. 1 – April 30 hours of operation are:

Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday, Noon – 6 p.m.

What are SilverSneakers® classes?

SilverSneakers® classes are Total-Body Conditioning Classes designed to increase muscular strength, endurance, range of movement, flexibility, balance, agility, and coordination. The classes are anywhere from 45 to 60 minutes. Classes typically involve the use of hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a small exercise ball. A chair may be used for seating or additional support.



Who teaches the classes?

SilverSneakers® classes are taught by credentialed instructors who are specially trained in leading fitness programs for aging adults. All **SilverSneakers®** class instructors undergo an in-person training and evaluation process to become a **SilverSneakers®** instructor. Our instructors are **Renea Bishop**, **Mary Ann Gerard**, and **Bernadette Gallotti**. They are veteran instructors who have been teaching **SilverSneakers®** programs for years.

Visit bethelpark.net or the Bethel Park Community Center for monthly schedules



SilverSneakers® CLASSIC

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a **SilverSneakers®** ball are offered for resistance. A chair is used for seated and/or standing support.

SilverSneakers® Yoga

Yoga will move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance, and range of movement. Restorative breathing exercises and final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity.

SilverSneakers® Boom Move - designed for the Active Senior

Gain stamina and strength as you break a sweat and HAVE FUN! A higher intensity dance workout class that improves cardio endurance and burns calories. The class focuses on cardio endurance by starting with simple dance moves then building into more complex sequences, bringing you a great cardio workout. No dance experience is required.

SilverSneakers® Boom Muscle - designed for the Active Senior

Students will move through multiple "blocks," which are groups of exercise that focus on different muscle groups. Class incorporates athletic-based exercises that improve upper body conditioning, toning muscles and building overall strength.

SilverSneakers® Circuit designed for the Active Senior

This Circuit workout offers standing, low-impact choreography alternated with upper body strength work. Students use hand-held weights, elastic tubing w/handles & other equipment while utilizing all parts of the body without too much stress. Build muscle, flexibility, cardio & tone.

Mindful Movements

Class includes a combination of stretch, muscle work, balance, & flowing movements. Experience a workout for your minds, body & spirit.

Strength & Stability designed for the Active Senior

Movements taught in class focus on specific exercises to improve strength and power around ankle, knee & hip joints while improving your reaction time. Become stronger and improve balance to prevent falls.

SilverSneakers® Boom Mind

This is a mind & body fusion class format. The experience will include Yoga, Pilates, and functional movements for fall prevention. All exercises are a gentler approach to fitness through Pilates, core exercises, yoga and stretch to improve mindfulness and cognition.

SilverSneakers® Beginner Line Dancing

Dance your way into wellness. You will learn basic line dances plus wedding and party dances, while improving your strength, balance and coordination. No equipment needed.

Visit bethelpark.net or the Bethel Park Community Center for monthly schedules.



MUNICIPAL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED for the following holidays:

CHRISTMAS

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Monday, Feb. 19, 2024

The Community Center will be OPEN.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED for the following holidays:

CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023
Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023
Monday, Jan. 1, 2024

School of Rock Wins Park & Play “Battle of the Bands!”



The Park & Play “Battle of the Bands” was held on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 5-9 p.m. at Millennium Park with **House Band – School of Rock** selected by the crowd of over 200 as the winners!

The other talented participating bands included **AggressivA**, **Hooks in the Reed** and **Winchester Ghosts**.

“I think the first Battle of the Bands was fantastic!” said Recreation Programs Coordinator **Lindsey Sibert**. “What a fun experience for aspiring musicians to be able to play in a ‘real’ concert style setting with a great,

interactive crowd. I think the performances were great, so varied and really covered a little bit of lots of types of music. I hope to continue this event in the future and see even more talent come through!”

And, School of Rock General Manager **Dan Moore** agrees.

“All of the bands that participated were awesome and I couldn’t have been prouder of the kids for the great performance,” he said and added that House Band – School of Rock, started working on their songs for the performance in early May.

School of Rock is the world’s largest performance-based music school according to Moore.

“With our patented ‘first song’ teaching method, we’re able to get kids playing and performing rock music. Through learning rock songs, we’re able to incorporate musical concepts and music theory and have the students put them into practical applications immediately,” said Moore.

House Band – School of Rock students who performed at the Battle of the Bands are listed below along with their year in school, role in the band and goals.

Alexandria Semen

High School Senior

Vocals

Goal: Continue making music and becoming a tattoo artist and open her own shop.

Gracie Barrett

High School Sophomore

Vocals

Goal: Career in music psychology.

Jack Guzowski

College Freshman

Guitar (*started at age 13*)

Goal: Music producer with his own studio.

Gavin Scullo

High School Sophomore

Guitar (*started at age 12*)

Goal: Attend college and earn a degree in music technology and business.

Max Bywalski

College Freshman

Guitar (*started at age 15*)

Cooper Stewart

College Freshman

Guitar

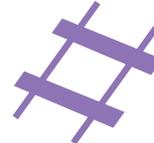
Tyler Artim

College Freshman at PennWest California for Music Tech

Drums (*started at age 11*)

Bass (*started at age 16*)

Goal: To pursue his creative outlet and hopefully continue to make music with people he loves as a touring musician or writing music as a career.





Cole Yakelis
7th Grade
Keys (started in 4th grade)
Goal: Pursue music at Berklee College.

Gavin Weber
High School Senior
Drums (started in 4th grade)
Guitar (started at age 14)
Bass (started at age 16)
Goal: To become a touring musician, producer and drum instructor.

Samantha Yetter
High School Senior
Vocals (since 2012)
Guitar (since 2016)
Goal: to pursue a career in music.

For more information on the School of Rock, call 412-343-7625 or email dmoore@schoolofrock.com.



Park & Play will be returning in 2024!
Details will be announced this spring!



SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

District Telephone Number833-5000

Central Administration

301 Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

Dr. James Walsh, Superintendent:854-8402
Dr. Mark Korcinsky, Assistant Superintendent for
 Facilities and Operations:854-8608
Dan Sloan, Supervisor of Facilities and Operations:854-8608
Mandi Figlioli, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction K-12:854-8420
Elizabeth Wells, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction K-12:854-8420
L. Douglas McCausland, Finance Director/Business Manager:854-8425
Sharon Kopy, Assistant Finance Director:854-8445
Dr. David Muench, Director of Student Support Services:854-8410
Dr. Sarah Shue, Supervisor of Special Education:854-8410
Anthony Piscioneri, Director of Human Resources:854-8413
Brett Slezak, Director of Technology:854-8418
Chris Gawlas, Bethel Park School Police:854-8592
Brandon Agostinelli, Food Services Director,
 Metz Culinary Management:854-8754
Laura Grimm, Athletic Director:854-8548
Thomas Howell, Assistant Athletic Director:854-8548
James Cromie, Director of Communication and Public Relations:854-8438

Bethel Park High School

309 Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

Joseph Villani, Principal854-8581
James Fodse, Assistant Principal Student Academics & Affairs854-8581
Keith Walters, Assistant Principal Student Academics & Affairs854-8581
 Counseling Office854-8595
 Health Office854-8550
 Attendance Office854-8572
 Library854-8565
 Records Office854-8584
 Activities Office854-8514
 Athletic Office854-8548

Independence Middle School

2807 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

Racquel Sutton, Principal854-8677
Tyler Dillinger, Assistant Principal854-8678

Neil Armstrong Middle School

5800 Murray Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

Lisa Miracle-Volpe, Principal854-8751
Sheryl Kremer, Assistant Principal854-8756

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

1524 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh 15234

Jay Johnson, Principal854-8618

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

5400 Florida Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

Teresa Doumont, Principal854-8741

Memorial Elementary School

3301 South Park Road, Bethel Park 15102

Eric Chalus, Principal854-8506

George Washington Elementary School

515 Clifton Road, Bethel Park 15102

Fred Pearson, Principal854-8546

William Penn Elementary School

110 Woodlet Lane, Bethel Park 15102

Brian Lenosky, Principal, Director for Cyber/Alternative
 Learning:854-8522

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS



**Barry
Christenson**
President



Sharon Janosik



**Kim
Walsh-Turner**
Vice President



**Darren
McGregor**



Buffie Faes



Jim Modrak



Dan Grzybek



Vince Scalzo



Gail Hoppe

VISIT US ONLINE @ www.bpsd.org

BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

FULL-TIME SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED
BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

FULL MEDICAL BENEFITS * EXCELLENT
 HEALTH INSURANCE * PA STATE RETIREMENT
 SYSTEM * DISTRICT PROVIDED TRAINING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
BPSD.ORG/EMPLOYMENT



A Message From... DR. JAMES WALSH Superintendent

The Power of a Good Struggle

"Sail forth. Steer for the Deep Waters Only" – Walt Whitman

In **Scott McLeod** and **Dean Shareski's** book, "Different Schools for a Different World," they discuss four shifts upon which we should place our focus to stay relevant in this 21st century world. To that better future, here are the shifts we are taking as we remake learning in Bethel Park.

The first necessary shift is away from an emphasis on lower-level-thinking tasks, such as factual recall and procedural tasks, to tasks of greater cognitive complexity, such as creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This also requires effective communication and collaboration skills. Evidence suggests a shift away from lower-level thinking helps foster citizenship skills, as well as economic and college success.

Next is a shift in control. We want to transition from classrooms in which the teachers overwhelmingly control the time and discussion to classrooms that empowers student agency (*control*) over how they learn. Student agency builds ownership and allows teachers to differentiate the learning process. As a result, student engagement increases, because students are more connected and invested.

The third shift is a move from independent work classrooms, which provide students opportunities to engage with and contribute to a learning community. This could be the classroom, or more broad interdisciplinary learning communities. This change supports students' motivation by helping them see direct connections between their learning and the world around them. It also connects students' learning activities to the innovation that surrounds them. This is more "real world."

The fourth shift is a transformation in local classrooms from pens and pencils, notebooks and textbooks to connected learning spaces that are freely and richly technology driven. Mobile computing devices and online environments allow the first three shifts mentioned here to move into high gear. Robust technology integration efforts also combat equity concerns.

Most would agree on the importance of these skills, but we struggle in how these skills should be assessed. We ask for students to think critically and creatively, yet move our learners to all think the same on the test. This is where we need to go next: rethinking assessment or measurement of learning in general.

Come aboard! We are sailing into the "deep waters" of the school year. We will continue to remake learning, aiming our sails to these ever-shifting winds.



A Message From... BARRY CHRISTENSON School Board President

Special Education at Bethel Park

Bethel Park Schools have a long history of being best-in-class for special education. Many families have moved here to benefit from the excellent education and services that we provide. We are proud to support our students, parents and administration in continuing to deliver exceptional education for our exceptional students. Here is a summary of the approach that the Bethel Park School District has taken with our support to address the needs of special education programs.

The school district institutes its behavioral health services with a tiered approach. Our five elementary buildings are staffed by a social worker at each elementary school as well as one site-based therapist that handles the student cases for all locations. The Student Assistance Program (*SAP*) operates at each elementary building and consists of the social worker, an instructional support teacher, the building administrator, and the Director of Student Support Services. At many elementary buildings there are other teachers and paraprofessionals that are a part of the team as well.

This tiered approach is also used at the middle schools and high school and includes school counselors and TEAMS room staff. Additional support is supplied through a partnership with Auberle, a local *SAP* provider. There is one liaison at the K-4 level and one liaison at the 5th-12th grade level. Auberle also provides two site based therapists that are a part of the program as well.

In addition to the support discussed above, the Tier 1 strategy at the elementary buildings includes the inclusion of the Second Step Program, a social and emotional learning program that is research-based. This program is implemented by the social workers with their regular and special education teaching colleagues and is meant to teach students about themselves and others and how they interact across the five competencies of the CASEL (*Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning*) framework. Social workers push into the classrooms to implement this research-based model. The frequency of this push in varies, but is typically between once per week to once every other week.

Bethel Park School District has a history of inclusion. Over the last four years, our inclusive itinerant number (*more than 80-percent included*) has been greater than the state average. Based on the 2021-2022 Special Education Data Report, most recently, 65.8-percent of special education students are included for at least 80-percent of their school day, higher than the state average. That is another clear demonstration that we are striving for inclusion within our school district while continuing to meet the state's targets.

Bethel Park School District ensures that services are provided to children with exceptional needs in the least restrictive environment including opportunities for interaction with the rest of their schoolmates during the school day and in extracurricular school activities. IEP teams follow the special education process outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*) and Chapter 14 of the Pennsylvania State Code. The Individualized Education Program (*IEP*) is developed to address the individualized needs of the student, including special considerations and present education levels. Annual goals and objectives, individually tailored instruction, and all supports and related services are designed to meet the individual students' respective needs. Lastly, appropriate educational placement is discussed and offered through the Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (*NOREP*).

The district also provides the needed support and resources including specialized transportation, if necessary, to support the participation of children with special needs in nonacademic and extracurricular activities. Students with special needs are also afforded the opportunities to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities in the same manner as the rest of their classmates. As services are provided to children with special needs in the least restrictive environment, the majority of students with special needs in the district attend the same school as their neighborhood peers.



**HERE,
WE GROW!**

The District continues the investment in developing safe, modern learning spaces for all students.



Independence Middle School is half-way through a \$45 million renovation project to modernize the 50-year-old building in preparation for the addition of the sixth grade to I.M.S. in 2026. In addition to entirely new mechanical and electrical systems, the building will have a fresh, modern look throughout the building, including the outside.



Independence Middle School Renovation Project

- ◆ \$45 million for phases 1 & 2
- ◆ \$5 million for phase 3
- ◆ Complete in the Winter of 2025
- ◆ Entirely new mechanical systems
- ◆ New layers of security and safety systems
- ◆ Updated finishes throughout, including the exterior
- ◆ Improved handicap accessibility
- ◆ Upgraded technology systems

Bethel Park

Elementary School

Opening 2026 for all students in
Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

- ◆ To be built on the Neil Armstrong campus with entry off Kings School Road
- ◆ Plans to adopt all-day Kindergarten
- ◆ Houses, Neighborhoods and Communities incorporated into the design to make a big building feel small
- ◆ 2 gyms, 2 libraries, 3 S.T.E.A.M. spaces.



Sloan Named Supervisor of Facilities & Operations

This fall, **Dan Sloan**, Bethel Park's former Athletic Director, transitioned to a new role within the district where he helps supervise facilities and operations.

As athletic director, Sloan oversaw a mammoth department that featured 27 varsity, 14 junior varsity, four junior high, and 15 middle school teams. He also oversaw one of the most significant individual budgets in the school district. He will lean on that experience in his new role as he oversees district facility rentals and reservations and helps to coordinate transportation efforts.

In May, **Dr. Mark Korcinsky** was elevated to his newly created role as Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations. The veteran administrator, with an extensive background in logistics, soon realized that he needed a strong manager to help facilitate some of the changes that continue to be made. He quickly identified Sloan as the ideal candidate to fill that role.



Dan Sloan

"For this role, we needed someone who understands the school district and the key role logistics and planning plays in ensuring everything is functioning properly," said Korcinsky. "I can't think of a more well-suited person for that responsibility than someone who has spent almost every day for most of the past decade doing just that for our student-athletes."

During Sloan's seven-year tenure as athletic director, Bethel Park teams claimed five team or individual state championships, eight team or individual WPIAL championships, and dozens of other team and individual WPIAL and state playoff appearances.



PA Law Allows for Free Breakfasts for All Students

The 2023-2024 Pennsylvania state budget, passed in August and championed by **Gov. Josh Shapiro**, allocates funds for universal free breakfast at public schools across the Commonwealth.

"Students can't learn on an empty stomach," Shapiro said. "That is why, in my budget address just about three or four months ago, I called for universal free breakfast for every one of Pennsylvania's school children."

The 2023-24 budget includes \$46.5 million to provide universal free breakfast to Pennsylvania's 1.7 million public school students, according to the Shapiro administration.

Shapiro also noted that a statewide universal breakfast program will help reduce the stigma felt by children who currently receive free- or reduced-cost school meals by putting "every kid on the same playing field."

So far this year, six states have adopted a variation of programs to provide students with free universal school meals, including Minnesota, New Mexico, Maine, California, Colorado and Vermont. Another 20 states, including Pennsylvania, are in the process of planning, drafting, or considering legislative efforts to expand free school meal programs.

In Allegheny County, more than 146,000 public school students are eligible for free breakfast.

The administration provided a breakdown of the number of students eligible for free breakfast in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties based on 2022 school enrollment data.

Bethel Park Paraprofessionals Participate in Dept. of Education's Attract-Prepare-Retain Program

Three Bethel Park School District paraprofessionals are taking advantage of a collaborative grant between the school district, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Slippery Rock University called "Attract-Prepare-Retain" (APR). As part of the program, the aspiring teachers will earn their Masters degrees in Special Education, with little to no tuition costs.

We applaud **Wendy Shah** (Ben Franklin Elementary School), **Nichole Ragnelli** (Memorial Elementary School) and **Erika Steers** (Abraham Lincoln Elementary School) as they each further their education in working with our special education population.



International Dot Day

Bethel Park's first Dot Day Celebration was hosted in 2021. In subsequent years, other books in **Peter Reynold's** Creatrilogy series have been used as the featured text. The second annual celebration in 2022 featured "*Ish*," a story about not getting squashed by the opinions of others and finding the words and courage to defend your ideas. An "*Ish*" approach with kids helps them relax in order to express themselves. *Ish*-ful strategies allow art, writing, or problem-solving to flow creatively.

In 2023, we closed the final chapter of Peter Reynold's Creatrilogy with "*Sky Color*," the third book in the series. "*Sky Color*" is about developing perspective, examining the world from varying points of view, thinking outside the box, and pushing yourself to the next level. The main character, Marisol, is very confident in her artistic ability, but comes to an important revelation over the course of the story. She becomes inspired to move beyond learned conventions by observing the world more mindfully when she is challenged to paint the sky without using the color blue.

Dot Day serves as an annual reminder that EVERYONE has potential to create and contribute to the world in their own unique way. It not only celebrates art and creativity, but also promotes self-confidence and a growth mindset, inspiring individuals to embrace their inner artists and take risks. Bethel Park School District stands firmly committed to fostering a sense of belonging and individuality. This annual event highlights the transformative impacts of creativity and self-expression in our lives.



Brittany Cook a teacher at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School was among the Dot Day celebrants in September.

Returning Student Registration

If you haven't already done so, parents and guardians of Bethel Park students, please help us serve your family better by completing your students' online Returning Student Registration (RSR) information today.

The RSR portal is located in your student's Home Access Center (HAC) and has replaced the old hard copy School Emergency Cards. It takes just minutes to complete per child, and if you've done it before and your child's medical needs have not changed, that information could already be pre-populated and needs confirmation. If you have multiple students in the district, you can import the relevant contact information for each successive child with the click of a mouse.

Please be sure to set aside a few minutes today to complete and submit your student's data, as the information you provide through the online portal could mean the difference between your student getting the proper medical attention they need in an emergency and the correct people in your family being notified as promptly as possible.

Homecoming Weekend at Bethel Park High School: A Spirited Celebration of Tradition and Community

Homecoming Weekend at Bethel Park High School was an unforgettable celebration of school spirit, community, and tradition. As the air turned crisp and the school year shifted into high gear, students, alumni, and friends of the district came together for a weekend filled with vibrant festivities.

The weekend kicked off on a picturesque late September evening as Bethel Park welcomed neighboring Baldwin at the iconic Black Hawk Stadium. The excitement began with a spirited parade, which snaked its way from St. Valentine Catholic Church to the high school campus. The parade featured dazzling floats, energetic cheerleaders, and the mesmerizing rhythms of the marching band, setting the stage for an exhilarating weekend ahead.



This year's Homecoming court winners were (from left): Alea Taylor (Queen), Bryce Clancy (King), Lidia Lorenzi (Princess), and Tommy Smith (Prince).

Following the parade, all eyes turned to the gridiron as the Bethel Park Hawks faced off against the Highlanders. Bethel Park soared to an impressive 50-13 victory, sending waves of jubilation throughout the stands. The crowd's cheers and applause resonated far beyond the stadium, embodying the true essence of homecoming.

The pinnacle of the weekend came with the crowning of the Homecoming royalty. **Alea Taylor** was bestowed with the title of Homecoming Queen, and **Bryce Clancy** was crowned King, earning the admiration of their peers. **Lidia Lorenzi** and **Tommy Smith** were honored as the Princess and Prince.

In addition to the royal court, special recognition was given to the rest of this year's Homecoming nominees: **Dylan Lawton**, **Zane Antonich**, **Adam Thompson**, **Kylie Ackerman**, **Kaitlyn Becker** and **Essa George**.

Emma Thimons and **Paul Baronak** were each named this year's student Spirit Award winners, embodying the true essence of pride in attending Bethel Park High School. High school Principal **Mr. Joseph Villani** was present to congratulate and honor these exemplary students.

Recognizing the dedication of the school's staff, awards were presented to the High School's Health and Physical Education Department. Principal Villani commended **Ms. Lisa Serafin**, **Ms. Linda Bruckner**, **Ms. Jackie O'Malley**, **Mr. Adam Triscila** and **Mr. Nick Santora** for their unwavering commitment to the school's values.

As the weekend drew to a close, the high school cafeteria transformed into a magical dance floor, where students danced the night away under twinkling lights. Bethel Park High School's Homecoming Weekend was not just a tradition; it was a testament to the enduring spirit of the community, the pride of its students, and the dedication of its staff.

School Bus Safety Tips

School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students, and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day, and National School Bus Safety Week serves as a reminder for students, parents/guardians, teachers, and the community to keep school bus safety in the forefront. Here are tips to keep our children safe at the bus stop.

Getting Ready for School

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.
- Encourage them to wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Make sure children leave home on time so they can arrive at the bus stop before it is due, ideally at least five minutes early. Running after or in front of a bus is dangerous.

Walking to the Bus Stop

- Walk young children to the bus stop or encourage children to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, and if there is no sidewalk stay out of the street. If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at drive -ways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.

At the Bus Stop

- Have children wait in a location where the driver can see them while driving down the street. Try to avoid waiting in a house or car.
- Do not let children play in the street. Playing with balls or other toys that could roll into the street is also dangerous.

Getting On and Off the Bus

- Warn children that if they drop something getting on and off the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus.
- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited to see you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

Mobile Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices are often permitted on the school bus as long as:

- They are in backpacks or other holders, keeping hands free to use handrails while boarding and departing the bus.
- Sound is muted or headphones, ear buds or similar devices are used.
- Content does not violate the law or school district policy and procedures.
- Use does not create a distraction for the driver.



Chamber Orchestra Chosen to Perform at State Music Conference

The Bethel Park High School Chamber Orchestra has been selected to perform at the 2023 Pennsylvania Music Educator Association Professional Development Conference. This is a very prestigious honor for the students and their director, **Mrs. Stephanie Glover**, as one of only a handful of school orchestra programs selected statewide to perform. They will perform at 1 p.m., on Friday, April 19, 2024, at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

According to the association's website, each summer, a committee evaluates performance recordings using PMEA Board-Approved Guidelines to select the elite performers that will be on display at the conference. This year, Bethel Park was one of the schools chosen.

Glover said a lot of outstanding groups apply each year for conference performance consideration and it is an extremely competitive selection process.

"I am just so proud of my students and I couldn't be more pleased than to accept this invitation on their behalf," she said. Glover also added that the high school's band and Top 21 Choir have previously been selected to perform at the state development conference.

These students who will be performing at this year's state music conference include:

Violin:
Henry Gaston, Jacalyn Kalogeris, Jacob Kalogeris, Emma Krchmar, Julia Lepri, Joshua Lubawy, Kayla Matvey, Clara McGough, Micailla MetzSamuel Pellis, Grace Perdziola, Katie Peterson, Kevin Peterson, Delaney Puskas, Madelyn Sams, Kuon Verbosky and Ana Winowich

Viola:
Charlotte Gaston, Victoria Krappweis, Max LeMessurier, Amelia Lancet, Lucie Pacheco and Katelyn Wolf

Cello:
Emma Burke, Lily Spence, Christian Tabler, Kate Tabler and Lyla Walsh

Bass:
Cameron Wallace



IMS Hosts Meet-the-Firefighters Event

In October, IMS had a Meet-the-Firefighters event during lunchtime. IMS students had the opportunity to handle firefighting equipment, try on a heavy fire suit, and explore the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company's fire trucks.

Learning Support Teacher, **Ms. Kristen Fonda** organized the event as part of the "Be the Kind Kid" campaign.

According to Fonda, her group will dedicate the entire 2023-2024 school year to supporting our local heroes at the BPVFD. Inspired by the recent fire on Willow Glen Drive, she felt compelled to take action and help out.

Her group raised an impressive \$155 that they used to decorate the fire station and provide a delicious dinner for the department's 40 firefighters as a special 9/11 commemoration. But their support will not stop there! They will hold dinners for the firefighters from 6-8 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

To do that, they'll need help from the community. That is why they are kindly asking for donations from the public of water, Gatorade, and snacks to keep the firefighters hydrated and energized during their heroic efforts.

If you would like to show your appreciation for our community's most dedicated public servants, please drop off your donations at the BPVFD Firehouse at 5213 Brightwood Road.

Fonda also announced plans to launch an Adopt-a-Firefighter campaign that would pair students with firefighters, allowing the students to get to know some of their community's heroes on a more personal level.



**SECURE YOUR SPOT AND SAVE TODAY
AT [INVENT.ORG/LOCAL](https://www.invent.org/local)**

BPHS Students Recognized as AP Scholars

Fifty-six Bethel Park High School students were named Advanced Placement Scholars by the College Board. This designation recognizes students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through Advanced Placement Courses and Exams.

Students who take AP Exams can earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. Approximately 22 percent of the 2.8 million students worldwide who took AP Exams in 2023 performed sufficiently high to earn an AP Scholar Award.

Thirteen students were named AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, with scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Bethel Park's AP Scholars with Distinction are junior **Devin Collier** and seniors **Bryce Clancy**, **Henry Gaston**, **Cameron Hannay**, **Cody Hendrych-Bondra**, **Hersh Kambli**, **Joshua Lubawy** and **Lupe McEivenny**. They also include 2023 graduates **Diksha Adhikari (Pitt)**, **Lauren Heh (Pitt)**, **Addison Hill (Penn State)**, **Lucas Varley (Pitt)** and **Mira Weston (Pitt)**.

Fourteen students were named AP Scholars with Honor for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, with scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. That group included juniors **Sophia Iorio** and **Ronald Slavonic** and seniors **Samantha Downing**, **Lucas Hertzell**, **Cassandra Robinson**, **Emma Smith** and **Elena Wassil**. Class of '23 alums **Eva Blatz (Buffalo)**, **Keegan Brusoski (Penn State)**, **Coby Goelz (Case Western)**, **Jack Hartman (Penn State)**, **Lily Hemphill (PennWest Edinboro)**, **Anna Minick (Pitt)** and **Jeon Varghese (Ohio State)** were also a part of that group.

Twenty-nine Bethel Park students were named AP Scholars for receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams, including junior **Caleb Steele** and seniors **Julia Benlock**, **Emma Burke**, **Jesse Haefner**, **Tyler Kramer**, **Clara McGough**, **Grace Mowl**, **Luke Myers**, **Parker Nelson**, **Katie Peterson**, **Delaney Puskas**, **Madelyn Sams**, **Riswanth Haris Sundaresh Babu** and **Louis Williams**.

The Class of '23 alums in that group included: **Leah Armstrong (Pitt)**, **Lydia Blum (Cornell)**, **Jeremy Blocklin (Penn State)**, **Sydney Edwards (Dennison)**, **Dylan Finnell (Slippery Rock)**, **Corinne Hewes (West Virginia)**, **Anthony Hughes (Kent State)**, **Haiden Hunter (Pitt)**, **Carter Kicinski (Penn State)**, **Brock Kitterman (Alabama)**, **Olivia Massari (Penn State)**, **Clara Moir (Penn State)**, **Allison Morgan (CCAC)**, **Owen Sivetz (Penn State)** and **Abigail Turka (Coastal Carolina)**.

Bethel Park High School currently offers 19 Advanced Placement classes.

Bethel Park's Thompson Wins 2023 Fred Rogers Institute Helper Award

In September, **Mrs. Lisa Thompson**, a dedicated special education paraprofessional at Independence Middle School, was recognized as a recipient of the prestigious 2023 Fred Rogers Institute Helper Award. This esteemed accolade is presented by the Fred Rogers Institute to individuals who embody the spirit of compassion and community service, drawing inspiration from the timeless legacy of **Mr. Fred Rogers**.

The Fred Rogers Institute Helper Awards recognize the exceptional contributions made by individuals who care for children and communities, both in their everyday lives and professional roles. Established in 2023 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Institute, these awards are a heartfelt tribute to the memory of Fred Rogers and a celebration of those who epitomize his famous words: "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

According to **Dr. David Muench**, who nominated Thompson for the award, the long-time paraprofessional for students with special needs has displayed an unwavering commitment to positively impacting the lives of children and her community. "Lisa's dedication to her work is evident in her tireless efforts to support a student with complex physical needs and communication challenges at Independence Middle School," he said. "She is a true community leader who does so with dignity and compassion."

Muench said Thompson's determination to understand and communicate with her students on a deep level has been truly remarkable. "She tirelessly advocates for her student's needs and celebrates each breakthrough moment of new learning," he said.

Beyond her role at the school, Lisa is a devoted mother of five and grandmother to two, and she generously dedicates her time to supporting youth organizations and assisting neighbors in need.

The Bethel Park School District applauds Lisa Thompson for her outstanding contributions to children's and the community's well-being. Her dedication exemplifies the spirit of Fred Rogers, and her recognition with the 2023 Fred Rogers Institute Helper Award is well-deserved.



IMS paraprofessional Lisa Thompson (left) was honored by Dana Winters of the Fred Rogers Institute as one of 14 Fred Rogers Institute Helper Award winners nationally.

WATCH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
LIVE ON  **YOUTUBE**




SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY
EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Send an email along with your name, relationship to the school district, and your email address to: cromie.james@bphawks.org.

- Please put *Email Newsletter* in the subject line



Kindness in Action Campaign

Bethel Park is witnessing a heartwarming wave of kindness that's sweeping through the region. Over 4,500 students from 12 school districts in our area, including Bethel Park, have come together to participate in a remarkable kindness campaign.

The seeds of this inspiring movement were sown at Avonworth Primary School, where a club named "Be the Kind Kid" first emerged. Inspired by **Lady Gaga's** Kindness in Action Campaign and in anticipation of World Kindness Day on November 13, this initiative has blossomed into a full-fledged kindness movement.

The essence of this movement aligns perfectly with the enduring message of our beloved neighbor, **Mr. Fred Rogers**, who stressed the importance of being kind.

Ryan Rydzewski, co-author of the book "*When You Wonder, You're Learning*," which explores the teachings of Fred Rogers, remarked, "It is tough. Kindness can be really, really difficult, especially in today's world when it's not always rewarded. But we're so excited to have thousands of students and hundreds of teachers answering Fred's call and taking up that assignment to be kind to one another," he said.

Bethel Park School District is actively participating in the "Be the Kind Kid: Kindness in Action" campaign. The challenge is simple yet profound: design, build, and share kindness initiatives, maker projects, or art installations that cater to the unique needs of our community.

At Neil Armstrong Middle School, dedicated teachers **Mrs. Sonja Kubinec** and **Mrs. Lori Mates** helped guide students in crafting poems about kindness and recorded themselves reciting these heartfelt verses. In October, **Christine**



Sorenson featured the project as part of her "Kidburgh" series during the KDKA-TV evening news.

One student enthusiastically shared, "Being kind is cool. Kindness starts with you and me," as he read his kindness poem aloud. These poems were recorded and linked to a QR code, which were then placed on hand-painted bookmarks. The students also created friendship bracelets, which double as tassels on the bookmarks.

Mates explained their approach, saying, "We asked the students, 'What is kindness?' And everyone agreed it's helping someone else. It's being kind. It's giving a compliment, opening the door. And then we said, 'What does that look like? Why does it matter?' And everyone agreed it makes the world a happier place," she said.

The veteran educators recognize that academic and sports achievements are often rewarded in school, but they emphasize that teaching and rewarding kindness can have a profound and lasting impact on the community.

Kubinec added, "Everybody comes in with different abilities, different talents, and this is a way for each of them to shine and show that they are kind, that this intrinsic reward, this feeling they get, it doesn't always have to be extrinsic in some physical way, but the intrinsic feeling of giving something and saying, 'Okay, I made them smile,'" she said.

The "Be the Kind Kid - Kindness in Action Campaign" reached its culmination on World Kindness Day, Nov. 13. The Children's Museum and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh proudly displayed the wonderful creations of students from all twelve districts, showcasing the power of kindness in our communities. Bethel Park stands proudly at the forefront of this heartwarming movement, demonstrating the enduring importance of kindness in our schools and neighborhoods.

Fall Sports Round-Up

The Bethel Park fall sports season was a thrilling ride, with the girls tennis team claiming the WPIAL team and doubles championships and several other teams making a significant impact. Here's a round-up of the standout performances and noteworthy accomplishments:

Football: The Bethel Park football team (3-3) secured its place in the playoffs. The team's determination and hard work paid off, and at press time, they were eager to make their mark in the postseason. No all-section or all-WPIAL teams had been released at press time.

Girls Volleyball: The girls' volleyball team qualified for the postseason before being dispatched by Penn-Trafford in the first round of the WPIAL Class 4A playoffs. Coach **Brooke Muraco** praised the team's youthful enthusiasm and competitiveness, highlighting their journey of development throughout the season.

"We did not have a veteran team that had played together year after year as we'd had in years past," she said. "We had some raw young talent that was forced to quickly adapt to the varsity playing level. I am proud of the team's discipline, dedication, and teamwork, which led to their success."

Junior **Cassidy Sullivan** was named first team all-section and **Gabriella Gealey** was on the all-section second team.

Boys Soccer: The boys' soccer team (12-1-1) won its first section championship since 2013, allowing just seven goals in section play on their way to a No. 4 seed. However, they faced a gut-wrenching loss in the first round to Indiana on penalty kicks. **Coach Doug Fink** commended the team's excellent regular season and their achievement of the initial goal - making the playoffs. He noted, "In the playoffs, anything can happen, and we learned that lesson the hard way."



Fink was honored with the title of Section Coach of the Year, and Team Captain **Henry Gaston** was named the Section Co-Player of the Year. Gaston was also named to the all-WPIAL team, along with teammate **Adam Thompson**. **Jackson Friday** was named to the all-section team.

Girls Soccer: The girls soccer team had an up-and-down season, narrowly missing out on the postseason. Senior **Artemis**

Conaboy was a first team all-section selection. Junior **Grace Ferency** and sophomore **Callee Dalbon** were each second team all-section performers.

Cross Country: Senior **Jenna Lang** recorded a top six finish in the WPIAL during the WPIAL Class 3A cross country championship race. The Bethel Park senior clocked an 18:48.7 time and gained a berth in the PIAA finals.

Boys Golf: On the golfing front, Bethel Park's **Chan Yoon** displayed his skills during the Class 3A tournament at Valley Brook Country Club. He secured the 21st overall position with a score of 79-79-158.

Bethel Park's fall sports season was marked by achievements, resilience, and teamwork, and the student-athletes and coaches are looking forward to building on their successes in the future. Congratulations to all the teams and athletes for their outstanding performances this season!



Hawks Tennis Wins First-Ever WPIAL Team Championship

In October, the deep and talented Bethel Park girls tennis team secured their first-ever WPIAL championship at Washington and Jefferson College's Janet L. Swanson Tennis Center. Senior **Lily Sierka** and freshman **Cami Fisher** also took the top spot in WPIAL Class 3A girls tennis doubles. The team's triumph was a culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and unwavering camaraderie among the team.

Senior **Emma Smith** insisted that the team's unity and shared history helped propel the Hawks to the title. "Going down our team, we are all pretty similar skill-wise and we are super close," she said. "We are really tight because we have known each other and have been playing together since we were 2 and 3 years-old."



Bethel Park entered the WPIAL championship as the No. 1 seed in the Class 3A tournament after an undefeated regular season and a section title. Their journey to the finals included convincing wins against Norwin (5-0) and Upper St. Clair (4-1), before edging Shady Side Academy (3-2) in the semifinals.

They swept past North Allegheny (5-0) in the championship match.

Smith and **Mackenzie Smock** set the tone by securing a win at No. 1 doubles against **Audrey Zheng** and **Tia Soussou** with a score of 6-1, 6-3.

Katie Peterson was similarly dominant in No. 3 singles, besting **Peyton Mauser**, 6-2, 6-2.

The match's biggest surprise may have been freshman sensation **Cami Fisher's** straight sets dismantling NA's top player, **Sara Fernandez**, 6-4, 6-2.

Afterwards, the visibly emotional Fisher could only smile through the tears. "This is absolutely the coolest thing ever...I can't stop crying. It's awesome," she gushed.

No. 2 doubles tandem **Julia Gobbie** and **Cassie Sierka** had a tougher time of it, winning 7-6 (3), 6-4, against **Siya Jain** and **Rebecca Murphy**. **Lily Sierka's** victory at No. 2 singles capped off the suffocating team performance, after her opponent, **Laetitia Wessel**, was forced to retire due to injury in the second set.

The Hawks would advance all the way to the PIAA semifinals, where they lost to state eventual runner-up, Conestoga, 3-2. Their tight-knit team, characterized by unwavering support, chemistry, and friendship on and off the court, served them very well.

As Smith noted, "You need a solid seven players who have chemistry and who are friends on and off the court to win," she said. "If you aren't tight like that, then you are not going to have chemistry on the court."

Grimm Promoted to Athletic Director

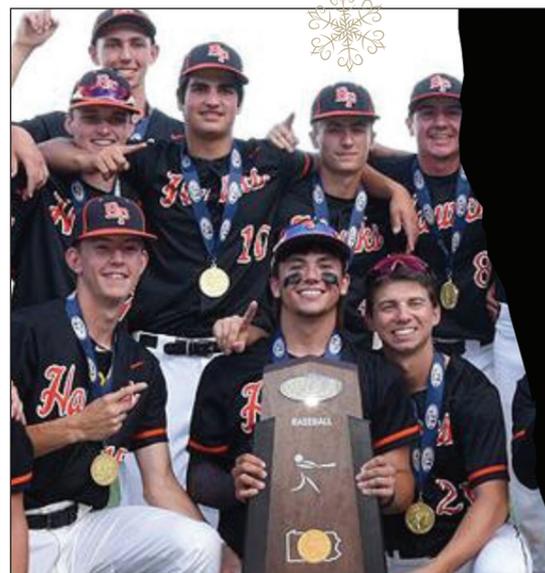
Bethel Park School District has promoted **Mrs. Laura Grimm** to athletic director. Grimm becomes the school district's sixth-ever full-time athletic director. She is just the second woman to hold the post. Grimm succeeds Dan Sloan, who has transitioned into overseeing facilities and operations.

Grimm rises to the top seat in the department after having served as Sloan's assistant for the past two years. Before that, the Bethel Park resident was the athletic director at Ringgold School District for six years, where she helped steward the program to several major accomplishments, including the 2018 Class 4A state baseball championship, WPIAL and PIAA diving championships, and several other runners-up for WPIAL championships. She was also, for a time, Ringgold's girls basketball coach.

"I am honored to announce Laura's promotion to Athletic Director," Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh** said. "Laura was a tremendous student-athlete herself, and she was also an experienced athletic administrator when we first hired her two years ago. In her time here, she has leaned on that experience and has been instrumental in helping to guide the Athletics Department through some very challenging issues.

"We are very fortunate to have the ideal candidate for the job already on staff and fully immersed in our programs and student-athletes."

Grimm is a 2010 graduate of Colgate University, where she also played basketball. A Pittsburgh native and Serra Catholic alum, Grimm holds the Eagles' career records for points (1,940), 3-point field goals (283), steals (391), and assists (497). She also led Serra Catholic to the 2005 Class A girls basketball state championship. Grimm was named first-team all-state honors in 2005 and 2006 and the 2005 Associated Press Pennsylvania State Player of the Year. In June, Grimm was inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame.



FOLLOW YOUR

HAWKS

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@BP_BLACKHAWKS



@BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT



@BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Bethel Park Education Foundation Now Accepting Grant Requests

The Bethel Park Education Foundation is now accepting grant requests from students, faculty, and schools.

The Bethel Park Educational Foundation (BPEF) is a community-based, non-profit organization that aims to support programs that promote quality education. The Foundation facilitates communication and involvement among students, parents, school staff, business leaders, and community citizens.

Public schools face various new challenges as state and federal funding sources have been reduced or eliminated. BPEF hopes to find alternate ways of funding essential initiatives within our schools and stimulate the system to evolve as an institution.

The Foundation does not receive public funding; our programs are supported by individual, community, and corporate partners. Our supporters donate, knowing their gifts are creating opportunities for students to have exceptional educational opportunities. They know that providing a quality education favorably impacts the entire community.

The Bethel Park Educational Foundation is independent of the school district but works closely with the school board, administration, teachers, and students. All programs that benefit Bethel Park students are considered for financial support. The program list grows and evolves to reflect the needs of the student, teacher, school, and district as they are identified.

Ben Franklin's Kindness Wall

Inspired by the district's Be the Kind Kid: Kindness in Action Campaign, Ben Franklin Elementary School teachers **Mrs. Peggy Ann Clancy** and **Ms. Suzanne Vighetti** joined together to create a "Be the I in KIND" wall to be utilized by the entire school.

Teachers can take pictures of their students actually being the "I" in KIND. The pictures may be used to create bulletin boards, make kindness books, or even added to a special writing assignment for students that they created and shared through Google Slides.

Clancy said she and Vighetti came up with the idea because they wanted to create something to foster kindness and caring for each other both inside and outside of school.

"Acts of kindness are so powerful that they not only have a positive impact on the receiver, but the giver, as well," she said.



@BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

@BPSDINFO

@BETHEL_PARK_SCHOOL_DISTRICT

BPBS Reprises Original Fall Play: "The Second Star"

Mrs. Courtney Williams, an English teacher at Bethel Park High School, found herself with more aspiring actors than available roles for this year's fall play. Rather than reducing the cast, she decided to create new characters, ensuring that everyone who was willing to invest their time and effort had a place in her plays.

Williams' dedication to inclusivity led her to write a series of plays, starting with "Robin Hood" in 2015, followed by "The Second Star" in 2016, "The Heist" in 2017, "Mystery In a Nutshell" in 2018, "Fireworks on the 4th" in 2019, and "The Last Christmas Radio Show" in 2022.

In November, the students reprised "The Second Star," which delves into the world of a community theater that's in danger of losing its funding unless they can raise \$25,000 in just two weeks.

In the behind-the-scenes comedy, Second Act Theater faces its final performance. To save the community theater, the managing director decides to put together a last-minute benefit show of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," starring the theater's most famous alumna, the egotistical theater diva, **Mattie McLinden**, reprising her role as Puck.

As the members of the company rush to organize the show within a tight schedule, the play humorously explores the clashes of personalities and the flaring tempers among the theater company and its star.

Mattie McLinden is portrayed by senior **Alea Taylor**, who revels in the character's fun and dramatic nature.

"I'd like to think that my personality is nothing like my character's personality, but this part allows me to indulge in that world for a bit and act like a real diva," she laughed.

Freshman **Soph Willis** plays **Kate McLinden**, and **Noah Stiglich** takes on the role of **Michael Benvolio**.

With a cast of 30 students, rehearsals began in early September. Williams, the show's director and playwright, insists that the show is very collaborative in many ways.

"There are some things that I will not bend on because it is central to the show's plot, but oftentimes the actors will have an idea for their character that I hadn't considered, and if it makes sense, I usually encourage them to go for it," she said.

Maggie Babyak, a junior, finds it wonderful that there's a place for everyone in the show, ensuring no one is left out, and everyone's contributions are valued. She describes the theater group as a tight-knit family.

"I feel very lucky to have this opportunity to spend so much time with a group of people that I consider to be like a second family for me," she said.

Theater has not only provided a platform for artistic expression but also the opportunity to build lasting friendships, as noted by junior **Sophia Brawner**. The chance for each performer to shine on stage is a sentiment echoed by sophomore **Rylin Celento**.

The welcoming atmosphere of Bethel Park's theater community is a source of appreciation for junior **Meredith Myers**, who highlights the mutual support, line assistance, and the sense of tradition that has formed within the group.



Alea Taylor, Soph Willis and Noah Stiglich were three of the leads in this year's fall play, "The Second Star."

BPBS Again Hosts South Hills College & Career Fair

Bethel Park High School students and their families looking to jumpstart their college search, or continue it, had the opportunity to meet with representatives from all over the country without ever having to leave the community at the 2023 South Hills College and Career Fair, held for the second consecutive year at Bethel Park High School.

More than 2,000 area students were on hand to speak with approximately 100 vendors about a variety of educational and professional opportunities including two-year and four-year colleges, various technical programs and trade schools and various options within the armed services.

Bethel Park High School counselor **Mr. Michael Bruce**, who spearheaded the school district's role in the college fair, insists that events like this are integral to any student's development. "When you are just a sophomore or junior in high school, college seems so far away, but it's not," he warned. "Events like this can be eye-opening and start students down a road that will be very important to their future."

Representatives from various schools and organizations chatted with the students about what they offer regarding programming, lifestyle, setting, and many other factors.

"It was a great way for our kids to see all that's out there to help them make an informed decision about their future," said Bruce.



Bethel Park students recently had the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 100 universities, military branches and local businesses.

Bethel Park students were joined by their peers from Baldwin, Canon-McMillan, Keystone Oaks, Mt. Lebanon, Peters Township, South Fayette, South Park, and Upper St. Clair high schools. According to Bruce, pulling off an event of this scope was truly a group effort.

"One of the most exciting aspects of this event is it allows us to get to know our counterparts at other area schools and work with them on something really meaningful to everyone: helping their students succeed," he said.

According to Bruce, digital business cards were an exciting new feature of this year's college fair. All students in attendance were required to register for the fair using the Strive Fair QR Code. "That served as their 'digital business card,' which will allow the school reps to track who is interested in their school," he said.

Bruce said Bethel Park intends to continue to host the event going forward.

"This is just such a wonderful event for our families, and we are blessed to have the space and administration," he said. "We would be crazy not to take advantage of all those things to provide this opportunity for our families."

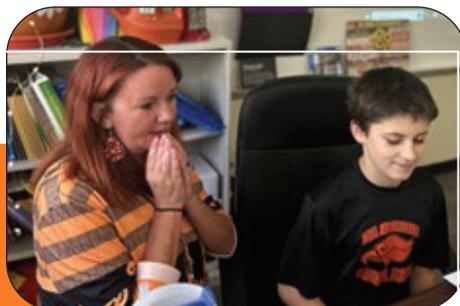
First Grade Fridays

On most Fridays, members of **Mrs. Keri Spell's** Team Eclipse at Neil Armstrong Middle School can be found mentoring students in **Mrs. Erin Sweeney's** first grade class at Memorial Elementary School about various issues.

The lessons, which have included interesting topics like landforms and the national parks system, are taught via videoconference and are part of a mentorship program called First Grade Fridays.

Sweeney said Spell approached her with the idea and it has been an extremely positive experience for her students.

"After they learn fun facts about things like national parks and landforms, for example, we go even further in our classroom and research them a little more," she said. "The sixth graders have been amazing young teachers and role models for my little ones."



Mrs. Keri Spell's Team Eclipse students at NAMS regularly help mentor Mrs. Erin Sweeney's first graders at Memorial Elementary School.

Bethel Park Welcomes New Pediatric Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic

UPMC Children's Hospital has proudly unveiled its latest initiative, a pediatric behavioral health walk-in clinic, in collaboration with UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital. This exciting addition to our local healthcare services is designed to cater to the needs of children and adolescents up to 18 years old who are facing behavioral concerns.

Dr. Abigail Schlesinger, the clinical chief of child and adolescent psychiatry and integrated care at UPMC Western and UPMC Children's, highlighted the clinic's significance, especially with the start of the new school year. She explained, "As the new school year begins, many children and teens can be stressed, anxious, or even struggling with their classes, which can cause parents to worry. We are here to help families through this and during any period of their child's life. This clinic will offer support and partner with the child's existing care team to continue providing safe resources at home and in the community."

One of the remarkable features of this new clinic is its accessibility. Children can visit the clinic with a parent or guardian and receive care on the same day, without the need for an appointment.

The clinic is conveniently located on the third floor of Children's Hospital, making it easily accessible to Bethel Park residents and neighboring communities. It will be open from 5-9 p.m. on weekdays and from noon-4 p.m. on Saturdays, ensuring that families have the support they need, when they need it. Bethel Park is proud to have such a valuable resource available to the community, promoting the well-being of our youngest residents.



**BLACK &
ORANGE
FRIDAYS**



Black Hawks Digital Season Passes

In the fall, Bethel Park School District introduced online only Athletic Season Passes for the 2023-2024 school year. Fans can enjoy the convenience of having their tickets right on their mobile devices, ensuring easy access to all the thrilling Black Hawk sporting events.

The Athletic Season Passes cater to adults and students, with prices set at \$75 (*plus fees*) for our adult supporters and a budget-friendly \$30 (*plus fees*) for students. To streamline the process, the district suggests that passes for adults and students be purchased separately. This will enable the district to collect essential student information, including their email and phone numbers, ensuring seamless communication and event access.

You will be asked to input that information after you have initiated the checkout process.

The Athletic Season Passes grant access to various ticketed sporting events, including football and boys and girls soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming, wrestling, and lacrosse. It's the ultimate ticket to witness our student-athletes' dedication, passion, and talent in action. Please note that Athletic Season Passes do not include admission to WPIAL or PIAA-sponsored home playoff games.

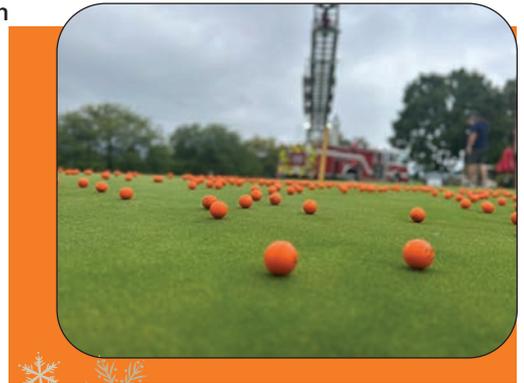
Go to the athletics page on the website and follow the links to season passes to secure your pass and be part of the excitement. Take advantage of this opportunity to support Bethel Park High School athletics and enjoy a season of unforgettable moments.

Fantastic Four Charity Golf Outing Raises More than \$60,000

The sixth annual Fantastic Four charity golf outing was held in September at Nemaocolin Country Club in Beallsville, Pa. The event, which is the passion project of Evey True Value Hardware Store owner Andy Amrhein, featured 128 golfers and raised more than \$60,000 for the four most prominent Bethel Park, 501(c)3 non-profits:

- Bethel Park Community Foundation
- Bethel Park Education Foundation
- Bethel Park Historical Society
- Bethel Park Public Library

One of the highlights of this year's event was the Golf Ball Drop Raffle, which was held on the putting green adjacent to the clubhouse. Approximately 1,000 foam golf balls were dropped from a Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company fire truck onto the practice green with the closest ball, owned by **James Adkins**, earning a \$1,000 prize.



Mills Qualifies for 4-H State Equestrian Tournament

Addison Mills, a seventh grader at IMS, competed at the PA 4-H District X Horse Show at the Westmoreland County Fairgrounds. She took top honors in Hunt Seat Equitation and placed second in Hunter Under Saddle, while riding Domino. Addison also placed fourth in Mini Horse Jumping with her mini horse Oreo, qualifying her for the Pennsylvania 4-H State Horse Show.



Zoo in the Classroom Collaborative

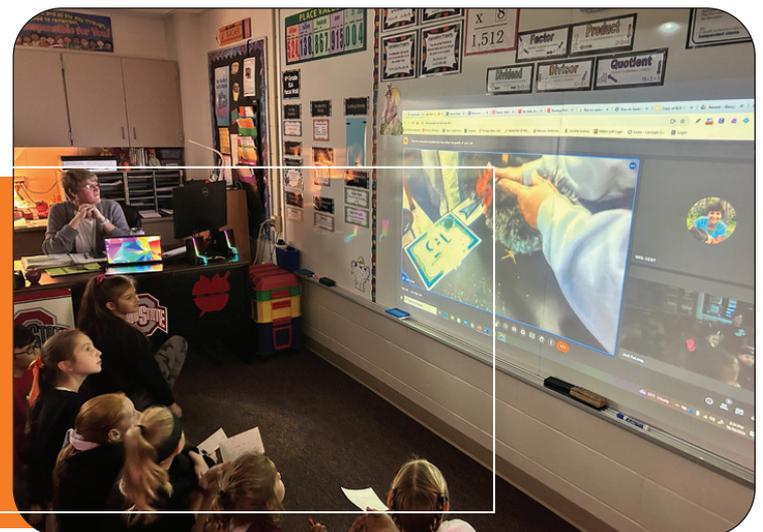
Students in **Mrs. Jodi DeLong's** fourth grade classroom at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School had the opportunity to learn about various animals from juniors and seniors in **Ms. Chelsea Geist's** Environmental Science class at Canon-McMillan High School.

Mrs. DeLong's daughter is a student at Canon-McMillan High School, and during that school's annual Open House, the teachers collaborated on ways each's classrooms could benefit from Canon Mac's "Zoo in the Classroom" Unit.

Geist's high school students studied an array of animals and presented their findings to DeLong's young students at Lincoln.

The fourth graders then posed a series of follow-up questions to the presenters to learn more about their respective species. DeLong believes the experience will serve her students well in understanding how animals communicate during her class' Life Science unit later in the school year.

Canon-McMillan High School students recently talked about their Zoo in the Classroom class with students in Mrs. Jodi DeLong's fourth grade classroom at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School.



Harmony and Remembrance: "Violins of Hope" Inspires an Unforgettable Evening at Upper St. Clair High School

The South Hills community came together in November for a remarkable evening of music and remembrance at Upper St. Clair High School as they embraced the transformative power of music and celebrated the "Violins of Hope." Presented by Violins of Hope of Greater Pittsburgh in collaboration with the South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM), JCC's Center for Loving Kindness, and other valued partners; this extraordinary event, "Hope in the South Hills – Student Readings and Performances," left a profound impact on all who attended.

The heartwarming performance was brought to the community completely free of charge and featured the talents of professional musicians, the Clarion Quartet, as well as student musicians from Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair, and Mt. Lebanon High Schools, who each played pivotal roles in the evening, delivering readings and musical performances that moved the audience.

Teachers **Ms. Leigh Totty** and **Mrs. Chelsea Casagrande** from Bethel Park High School have made it a part of their curriculum to teach about the Holocaust, recognizing its integral importance in understanding history and humanity.

"Learning about the Holocaust is an integral part of understanding humanity, understanding history, and the challenges facing our world today," said Totty.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of violins rescued from the Holocaust, echoing the voices of the past and paying tribute to those who were lost. Bethel Park's talented musicians delivered a heartfelt rendition of "Sleep My Child," composed by **Larry Clark**. Later, they joined forces with students from Mt. Lebanon and Upper St. Clair for a collaborative performance.

The Violins of Hope collection, comprises over 100 string instruments rescued and restored by violin makers **Amnon** and **Avshalom Weinstein**, symbolizes resilience and hope. These instruments are played in concert halls and exhibited in museums and serve as educational tools for people of all faiths worldwide.

The Clarion Quartet, founded by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, has dedicated itself to playing works banned during the Nazi regime and compositions by Holocaust-era composers. Their presence on the stage added depth to the evening's poignant performances.

The violin has a unique place in history, providing solace and salvation to many during the Holocaust. For some, the ability to play the violin spared their lives in concentration camps and ghettos or helped their families escape Nazi tyranny. For others, music offered comfort in the face of unimaginable loss and suffering.

The event featured touching readings, including one focused on the Warsaw ghetto by **Quinlan Reynolds**, a junior at Bethel Park who has been researching Holocaust-era music. **Riley Smith**, a sophomore, shared her piece on the role of music during the Holocaust, emphasizing its significance as a source of normalcy and identity in a world marked by tragedy.

The students who played the violins and other instruments felt a profound sense of responsibility to carry the legacy of these instruments and the stories they hold. **Clara McGough**, a senior, expressed her commitment to treat these instruments with the utmost care and to share their remarkable stories.

"Each violin has a unique story of survival and resilience, exemplifying the indomitable human spirit," she said. "These stories serve as a reminder of the enduring power of hope, even in the darkest of times."

McGough was joined on stage by fellow Bethel Park senior musicians **Joshua Lubawy**, **Katie Peterson** and **Lily Spence** and juniors **Cameron Wallace** and **Katelyn Wolf**.

SHIM played a vital role in bringing Violins of Hope to the South Hills, aligning with their mission of fostering an inclusive community where all can thrive. The enduring

lessons of the Holocaust continue to emphasize the importance of hope, resilience, and unity.

The evening's performances were a powerful tribute to the musicians who found solace and strength in their music during one of history's darkest chapters. The violins symbolize the past and the enduring cultural significance of music and its message of hope. The performance seamlessly bridged the past and the present, preserving historical value for future generations and honoring the spirit of those who found hope in music.



RETURNING STUDENTS REGISTRATION PORTAL



HELP US HELP YOU

COMPLETE YOUR STUDENT'S EMERGENCY RECORD TODAY!

Sams and Hrycko Recognized as Bethel Park Rotary's September and October Students of the Month

Each month, the Bethel Park Rotary Club hosts a luncheon at The Garden Restaurant on Gardenville Road, where it honors Students of the Month. Honorees receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution to their community and the opportunity to pick the brains of some local civic-minded business leaders.

September's Student of the Month was Bethel Park High School senior **Madelyn Sams**, while the October Student of the Month was **Ethan Hrycko**.

Madelyn, the youngest of three children to **Christina Turske** and **Rick Sams**, is also an excellent student and also a member of the National Honor Society and carries an outstanding 4.44 weighted GPA. She is also the President of Student Government Association (SGA) and the Vice President of the Class of 2024. Sams, a dedicated musician, is a member of Chamber Orchestra, an audition-based entry group and a squad leader for the marching band, where she plays the snare drum.

Madelyn is the Awards subcommittee Chair for Homecoming and outside of school, she is a member of the Girl Scout Troop 51623 and is pursuing a Gold Award.

Sams relishes her role as the president of SGA because it has allowed her to make a difference in her classmates' lives.

"I hold SGA especially close to my heart and look forward to seeing everyone at our Tuesday meetings," she said. "I enjoy listening to others' perspectives and gaining an insight into how they perceive their high school experience and the areas in which we can help improve it."

Hrycko is an excellent student who is a National Honor Society member with an outstanding 4.02 weighted GPA. Ethan is also a versatile musician who plays saxophone in the marching band and in the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, the largest audition youth orchestra in the Pittsburgh region, with five year-round ensembles. He also plays the keyboards and electric guitar for the School of Rock South Hills.

Ethan said he loves learning how to master playing so many different instruments because it allows him to explore different genres of music. "When I'm playing the alto or tenor sax, that allows me to explore my jazz interests," he said. "I will pick up the guitar when I feel more rock and roll or metal."

Hrycko, who suffers from anxiety, said playing music also allows him an escape. "I've been through a lot in my life, and I have found that music helps me cope with those things," he said.

The eldest of **Danielle** and **David Hrycko's** three children, Ethan was born with a double cleft lip and pallet and has endured four major facial reconstructive surgeries and several minor procedures to improve various functions. Also, his younger brother, **Evan (15)**, was born with autism.

"Going through so much adversity from such a young age has definitely made me a stronger person," he said. "It has taught me the value of patience and perseverance."

Neither Madelyn or Ethan has yet made their final college decision.

Students are nominated for Bethel Park Rotary Student of the Month by administrators, teachers, students, or community members. They are chosen based on academics, educational, extracurricular, civic honors and awards, organization membership, and leadership.

At a monthly luncheon, honorees receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution to their community. For more information on Rotary and its mission, please ask any Rotarians about it or visit bethelparkrotary.org. You can also visit their Facebook page.



Bethel Park Rotary President Bob Bauer and October "Student of the Month" Ethan Hrycko.

Athletic Department Partners with e-Services for Tickets

Bethel Park School District began its expanded partnership with Baldwin-based eServices Technology this fall to develop a more convenient way for guests to purchase tickets to the school district's live events.

Athletic director **Laura Grimm** says the new ticket-selling process came in response to fan opinion. "We are constantly communicating with our fans on ways to improve their game day experience, and much of the feedback we have received in recent years has centered around our fans' frustrations with getting into our games in a timely fashion," she said. "This new ticket-selling system will help alleviate some of that congestion."

Grimm anticipated an adjustment period for some fans and had on-site ticket concierges to help guide fans through the ticket reservation process. She also pointed out that many other ticket-selling entities have already shifted to the online model, and noted that most fans were already accustomed to it.

"Many of the people attending our games also regularly attend other sporting events like Pirates, Steelers, and Penguins games, and our process mirrors theirs, which allowed our fans to adjust to the new system rather quickly," said Grimm.

Online ticket sales are familiar to Bethel Park. For the past several years, fans have had the opportunity to buy tickets to all Hawks sporting events through various ticket-selling websites. Also, tickets to last spring's high school musical, "The Addams Family," were sold exclusively through eServices Technology. Tickets to this year's spring musical will also be sold exclusively online through eServices Technology.

French Students Welcome Haiti's Pasteur Pierre

The BPHS French Club and National French Honor Society were delighted to welcome **Pasteur Vaugelas Pierre** from the Republic of Haiti (a francophone country in the Caribbean) to speak to all of the BPHS French classes.



Pasteur Pierre has been visiting Bethel Park since the mid-2000s when the high school began partnering with his schools.

For \$240 per year, the BPHS French students have provided a Haitian student with an education and one warm meal per day for an entire year.

Bethel Park is sponsoring its fourth student, **Richina Leger**, in 10th grade.

Pasteur Pierre shared with students a broad overview of life in his country. With grace, dignity, and a warm smile, he focused on daily life, education, and the general struggles of the Haitian people.

Bethel Park students are very lucky to have that excellent opportunity and are donating \$250 so that when he returns to Haiti, he can buy rice and beans for any needy students or families (\$25 buys 25 lbs of rice or beans).

Anyone interested in sponsoring a student or helping supply food should go to <http://friendsofhaiti.org/>.

Four BPHS Students Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program

Four Bethel Park High School seniors have been recognized for academic excellence by one of the country's best-known and longest-running scholarship programs.

The National Merit Scholarship (NMS) Corporation has designated **Bryce Clancy, Henry Gaston, Lucas Hertzelt** and **Lupe McElvenny** as 2024 NMS commended students. Clancy and Gaston have also been named 2024 NMS semifinalists.

The students join an elite cohort among their peers throughout the country. Clancy and Gaston are among 16,000 NMS semifinalists eligible to compete for one of 7,250 NMS scholarships worth more than \$30 million. The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

NMS formally commends some 34,000 students eligible as candidates for special NMS scholarships sponsored by various corporations and businesses.

Students enter the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during their junior year.



(l-r): Lucas Hertzelt, Bryce Clancy, Henry Gaston, and Lupe McElvenny were each named 2024 NMS Commended Students.

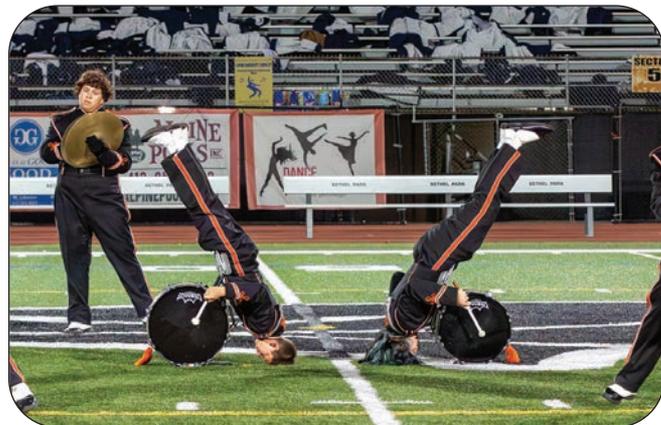
Of the 1.5 million entrants each year, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores — (which are calculated by doubling the sum of scores in reading, writing, language and mathematics tests) — qualify for NMS recognition as either commended students or semifinalists.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.5 million high school students from more than 21,000 high schools enter the program annually.

"We are very proud of the students who achieved this national recognition," Mr. Joseph Villani, Bethel Park High School Principal, said. "It is reflective of their hard work and dedication to learning."

BPBS Hosts 55th Annual Marching Band Festival

In October, the Bethel Park High School Black Hawk Marching Band welcomed visiting high school bands from Blackhawk, Franklin Regional, Peters Township, Seton LaSalle and South Fayette to its 55th Annual Marching Band Festival. The University of Pittsburgh Varsity Marching Band also participated in the festivities.



The BPHS Drumline will stand on their heads to entertain crowds!

The annual event brings in as much as \$20,000 per year and is the music boosters' second-largest fundraiser after the hoagie sale events.

Bethel Park High School's legendary Top 21 chorus kicked off the proceedings with stirring renditions of both the alma mater and the national anthem. The South Hills Stars Special Needs Color Guard helped introduce the colors and as per the long-standing tradition, the Drumline jump-started the enthusiastic crowd with its famous cadence feature during intermission.

Approximately 2,000 proud alumni, family and friends, as well as the other bands, filled the stadium on that cool October evening and enthusiastically clapped along and cheered on their musical brethren.

Hawk Passes Replace Senior Citizens Cards

Bethel Park School District offers FREE general admission to community seniors with the Hawk Pass.

The permanent orange plastic pass is the size of a credit card and grants Bethel Park residents aged 62 and older entry into nearly all school-sponsored events, including all regular-season home athletic events, as well as all choral and band concerts.

To obtain your Hawk Pass, go to the Administration Building [301 Church Street, Bethel Park, PA 15102] during normal business hours and show your identification. We'll provide you with your pass, which you'll present at the gate of nearly any school-sponsored event for FREE admission. Best of all, once you have your pass, you have it forever. There is never any need to replace it unless you lose or damage your pass.

The Hawk Pass replaces the Senior Citizens Card, which was a small business card-like pass that had to be re-issued at the start of each school year. If you already have a Senior Citizens Card, it will be honored for the rest of this year, but we strongly encourage everyone to upgrade their temporary cards for the more permanent versions. You can exchange your card for a new Hawk Pass at the gate of most district-sponsored events.

IMS Looking for Yearbook Submissions

The IMS Yearbook would love for you to share your images of middle school life. We are looking for photographs from athletics, extracurricular activities, or other community events to use in the 2024 yearbook. If you are willing to share any of your photographs throughout the school year, you can upload them to either yearbookforever.com or download the Yearbook SNAP app on your phone.

The access code to submit images is "hawks."



Germans to America Lecture Series

Pam Israel from Unlock Your History and **Robert Stakeley** from the Heinz History Center Affiliates Program (*HCAP*) spoke to Bethel Park High School German Club members about German history in America, specifically in Western Pennsylvania, in a lecture held at the Bethel Park Historical Society.

Israel, a trained genealogist, spoke at length about German migration patterns from the 18th through 20th centuries, the evolution of the Germanic language, and the Fraktur font, a calligraphic hand of the Latin

alphabet that was so popular with newspapers at the turn of the century. She also discussed family lineage and common surnames.

Stakeley, an educator and archivist, discussed with students his various preservation techniques and the importance of protecting valuable artifacts for future generations.



Genealogist Pam Israel helped students decipher old artifacts.

Wallace, McGough Each Named to PMEA District 1 Honors Orchestra

Senior **Clara McGough** and junior **Cam Wallace** have each earned recognition on the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (*PMEA*) District 1 Honors Orchestra. They each perform under the tutelage of Orchestra teacher, **Mrs. Stephanie Glover**.

The Bethel Park High School violinist, and bassist, who each performed live before a panel of judges, were selected for the highly competitive ensemble among high school students who auditioned from across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The selected students subsequently performed alongside other elite student-musicians and before guest conductor **Dr. Alexandra Dee**, Director of Orchestral Studies and Conductor at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. That performance was held in November at Mt. Lebanon High School.



PMEA District 1 Honors and District Band Selections

Seven Bethel Park High School student-musicians performed in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (*PMEA*) Honors Band concert at North Hills High School in November. Those students, who earned their seats in PMEA D1 Honors Band through a competitive audition, included flautists **Lupe McElvenny** and **Holly McGough**; trumpeters **Henry Cramer** and **Justin Muench**; trombonists **Ethan Alberter** and **Felix Kammerer**; and euphoniumist **Caleb Steele**.

Those students will be joined by classmate and clarinetist, **Ella Sabanovic** in the PMEA District 1 Band Festival (*West*), Jan. 11-13, 2024, at Peters Township High School in Washington, Pa.



Steel Center CTE's September 2023 Students of the Month

In a recent announcement at the school, two Bethel Park High School students were recognized as the September Students of the Month in their respective programs by the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education.

The honorees included senior **Kylie Lewis** (*Collision Repair*) and junior **Juliana Gallick** (*Medical Professions*). This is Lewis's second time being honored as a Steel Center Student of the Month. Her previous recognition was for December 2020.

Steel Center's very best students are recognized each month for their consistently high achievement and outstanding overall performance. The recognition is meant to acknowledge the students' unwavering commitment to their career and technical education, as demonstrated by their outstanding achievements.





Real Estate Services 

The Howard Hanna Bethel Park specialists are ready to help with all of your real estate needs!

180 Fort Couch Rd, Upper St. Clair, Pa 15241 • 412-833-3600



Robbins Bobbit
Sales Director



Bonnie Bagay



April Bartley



Del Burrell



Alaina Dong



Bev Fusco



Janet Hensler



JT LoCastro



Chris Longenecker



Marie Mageras



Faith Malutich



Ruth Moore



Kathy Narr



Kathleen Rae



Real Estate Services



Renee Ringer



Beth Thomas

Happy Holidays





Bactronix Kills Coronavirus!

Celebrating
Our 70th
Anniversary!



BactroKill from Bactronix is the next generation EPA registered, hospital grade, environmentally friendly, nanotechnology designed product to address both microbial and volatile organic compound contamination. This highly effective daily disinfectant is ideal to use around children and individuals with allergies, asthma or immune deficiencies. **BactroKill targets viruses, bacteria and spores while remaining safe for humans, animals and the environment.** BactroKill has proved to be highly effective in destroying dangerous biofilm as well as killing viruses and bacteria such as Swine Flu (*H1N1*), Bird Flu (*H5N1*), MRSA, Staph, Legionella, Salmonella, Norovirus, & E.coli.

412-835-5780
5779 Library Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
M-F 6 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Every True Value Hardware
and True Value Rental
shoppevey.com
True Value.



Bethel Park School District
301 Church Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 22
BETHEL PARK, PA

Your Ad Could Be Here!

Advertise in the February issue of
Chronicles!

Call Haya Eason at

heason@bethelparkpa.gov

412-831-6800, x204 to reserve your
spot. Ad deadline is January 19th!



'TRY-IT' WEEK @ THE COMMUNITY CENTER!

FEB. 26 - MARCH 2, 2024 • CLASSES ARE FREE!

Now's the time to try out a Recreation class at the Community Center for FREE!! From Sunday, Feb. 26 – Saturday, March 2, 2024, you can try out as many participating classes as you like with no obligation.

Watch www.bethelpark.net and the "Bethel Park Recreation & Community Center" Facebook page for all the details!

During 'Try-It' Week, instructors will be available to talk with you after class answering any questions you may have. All participating classes will be held at their usual dates and times.

Get ready to 'Try-It!' What do you have to lose?

Need more info. now? Call 412-851-2910.

