

# Bethel Park CHRONICLES

The Official Bethel Park Municipal & School District Newsletter

It's  
RECREATION  
SUMMER CAMP  
SEASON!



[www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)



[www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org)

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Jeffrey C. Liu, M.D.

 MAYO CLINIC CARE NETWORK  
Member



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Expert care from people who care.

# Bethel Park Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 29, 2023



## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

**Coffee & Donuts (7:30 a.m.)**  
Council Chambers  
**Morning Ceremony (7:55 a.m.)**  
Veterans Memorial Plaza  
**Parade (9 a.m.)**  
**Cemetery Service (following Parade)**  
**Luncheon (approximately 12 p.m.)**  
Bethel Park Community Center

The American Legion's Annual Parade and Cemetery Service on Memorial Day strives towards public awareness and remembrance of those who gave their lives for freedom, the supreme sacrifice for their country. Marchers carrying flags representing each service branch will participate and escort 8-10 riflemen who will serve as an honor guard attending to the flags.

The day begins with coffee and donuts at **7:30 a.m.** in Council Chambers followed by the Morning Ceremony beginning at **7:55 a.m.** at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in front of the Municipal Building (5100 W. Library Ave.). **Jorge Zarate** will be the keynote speaker.

Following the ceremony, the Memorial Day Parade will begin at the Municipal Building and end at Bethel Cemetery, adjacent to Bethel Presbyterian Church on Bethel Church Rd. A Memorial Day Service will be held at the Cemetery immediately after the parade.

A luncheon will be held at the Bethel Park Community Center following the service for those who participated in the event. The luncheon is sponsored by the Municipality, American Legion and Jugo Club.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in honoring our veterans.

Anyone wishing to participate in the parade can contact **Jessie Ferrari**, 2023 Bethel Park Memorial Day Parade coordinator, at [jkdf44@aol.com](mailto:jkdf44@aol.com) or **412-344-1846**.

## Meet Bethel Park Municipality's new Assistant Manager Adam Steele!



On the weekends, you may see Bethel Park's new Assistant Manager **Adam Steele** running in your neighborhood!

An avid track and cross-country runner, Steele enjoys training in Bethel Park when he has time off on the weekends.

"If you see me, be sure to stop me and say hello!" said Steele.

A Texas native, he began his work with the Municipality on Jan. 11, 2021, as an assistant to the manager during the midst of the pandemic. Then this past January, he was promoted to the position of assistant municipal manager.

"I love the people I work with; they have such a positive attitude about things and that makes it fun to come here," said Steele whose position entails personnel management, acting as a liaison between Municipal directors and Council, event planning,

representing the Municipality at various meetings, attending Council meetings, and assisting the manager with whatever he or she needs.

"I'm looking forward to working with the various directors on their ideas and using them to make the Municipality an even better place for residents," said Steele. "It's always fun to see projects come to fruition and do good for the community."

Steele received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Texas where he ran college track and cross country.

"I was really drawn to working in local government and I thought I could make a difference there, so I got my master's in public administration with a specialty in municipal government," said Steele.

He began work in local government for Colleyville, TX while completing his master's degree. After graduation, he contacted Bethel Park about a position and was hired.

While there are major differences in the climates of Texas and Pennsylvania, Steele enjoys it here.

"I really like it here! It's very different from Texas. The change of seasons is something I really enjoy. In Bethel Park, it's very close-knit and it feels like everyone knows one another and I like that too. Everyone is so friendly here!" said Steele. "I'm excited about my new position and looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of Bethel Park."

## Memorial Day Speaker JORGE ZARATE

**Jorge Zarate** was born in September 1991 in Bell Flower, CA to his parents **Jose and Olivia Zarate**. He has two younger sisters and an older brother. Zarate moved to Bethel Park around the age of 13 and graduated from Bethel Park High School in 2009. From there, he enlisted in the military at the age of 17 into the Army Reserves 307th MP Co. Once graduating from Basic, he got deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.

When he left the military in 2016, he started his police career working initially part-time in Ohio Township, Lincoln

Borough and Avalon. In 2017, he was hired by the City of Pittsburgh and worked there until he was hired by the Municipality of Bethel Park in January 2022.

His hobbies include Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing and lifting.



Jorge Zarate (center)



## A Message from Council President Tim Moury



Tim Moury

We're upgrading our parks, repairing our roads, and we held several special events for Earth Month including a variety of tree plantings, a recycling program and a community cleanup! However, because there's so much interest in our new Splash Park and Park Avenue Playground, I'd like to focus on that project for this issue.

We held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new 2-acre Splash Park and Park Avenue playground project on Monday, April 10 next to the Bethel Park Community Center.

This project has been in the making for about four years and was part of our strategic plan to upgrade all of our recreational facilities.

The Splash Park, a \$3.5 million project, will consist of a 4,300 sq. ft. cement spray area featuring three zones, a toddler area, one for younger children and a large area for all ages.

The Park will be ADA accessible, inclusive for all ages and abilities, and will be entirely fenced in and securely monitored by Recreation staff. The site will also include multiple restrooms, including two restrooms to service Park Ave. Field, and a snack stand.

We have utilized American Rescue Funds received from the federal government, two grants from the state and county as well as various fundraising projects helped cover the project cost.

The new playground cost is approximately \$175,000 and will include "The Serenity Spot," playground equipment for children with autism or other sensory processing differences.

You can read more about the project on pg. 10.

Our Splash Park will be among the largest in Allegheny County.

We'll keep you updated through Chronicles, our website (<https://bethelpark.net/splashpark>) and our Facebook page (Municipality of Bethel Park).

*Have a wonderful spring and please let us know if we can be of assistance!*



## "Live Well Bethel Park" now runs Year-Round!

We'll now be offering our "Live Well Bethel Park" program year-round to accommodate all the helpful information we have for it! You'll notice that all programs will now be 30 minutes and filmed in a new magazine-like format. Programs will continue to air on our "Municipality of Bethel Park" Facebook page.

For full details, visit <https://bethelpark.net/livewell>. We'll also be launching a survey soon to get your input for future programs for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024!

Following is a brief summary of upcoming programs:

### MAY

#### Eating Local...A Visit to the Bethel Park Farmers' Market

Join us as we meet three Bethel Park Farmers' Market vendors and learn about the importance of eating local and why it's a good idea to do so for you and your family!

### JUNE

#### Presumed Competence

Let's talk about presuming competence and holding high expectations for everyone in your life, especially for people with disabilities! Learn how to open up the possibilities for every person to be successful because you both believe in them and you keep working to make things possible through accessibility.

### JULY

#### Pet Obedience Training Tips & Tricks!

Does your pet look the other way when you call it? Do you have potty training issues with your pup? Does your kitty turn her nose at her new food? Or does your dog pull you during his entire walk? If any of these scenarios ring true, or if you have other training issues, tune in as we learn how to handle these situations and more with our expert. We'll also be taking your questions in advance!



### AUGUST

#### A Cooking Demo at the Farmers Market

You bought all your veggies, fruits and meats at the Market, now what? No worries! We'll show you how to cook up a great dish using only items purchased from our Farmers' Market! It's easy to dish up a tasty meal in no time with local, farm-fresh ingredients...we'll show you how!

## 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](http://www.bethelpark.net)  
Facebook: Municipality of Bethel Park  
Twitter: @Bethelpark\_PA  
Instagram: @BethelParkPA  
[www.pinterest.com/BethelPark\\_PA/](http://www.pinterest.com/BethelPark_PA/)  
[www.tiktok.com/@bptv\\_bethel\\_park](https://www.tiktok.com/@bptv_bethel_park)



## "Yard of the Season"

Do you know of a yard in our community that deserves recognition? Or is your yard something special? If so, consider nominating yourself or someone else for the Municipal "Yard of the Season."

To nominate, send the address, property owner and their contact information to [asteele@bethelpark.net](mailto:asteele@bethelpark.net) along with any pictures or verbiage about the property and we'll be back in touch!

Those selected will receive a special yard stake commemorating their award and will be recognized at a Council Meeting as well as in a future issue of Bethel Park Chronicles.





[www.bethelparklibrary.org](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org)  
412-835-2207

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Make a 45-minute appointment to learn more about your laptop, e-reader, smart phone, or common software programs. 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 are 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 & 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.

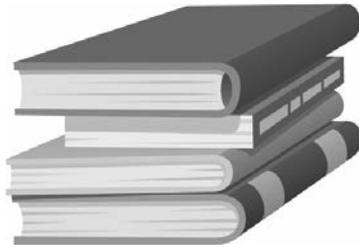
### KNITTING AT THE LIBRARY

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

Fun, friendly games every Tuesday at 1 p.m. 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

Meets the 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's 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. June- Summer Activity Ideas. July- Communication and Behaviors. August- Is it Time for a Move? How do I know when the time is right?

### 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](http://communities.unrealengine.com). Space is limited. Meetings at Bethel Park Library.

### NEW MOVIE RELEASE TUESDAYS

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

We will be showing the new blockbuster DVD release of the week in the Fireplace Room. Why wait to see what everyone is talking about now! Call for schedule.



### ARTICLES CLUB

3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

We will share our thoughts and reactions about articles from local and national publications. Please read article before meeting. Check the Library's online event calendar for article access or see Reference Desk for a physical copy of article if needed.

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

MOST PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

## RAISING FUNDS WHILE RAISING SPIRITS WITH PSYCHIC MEDIUM DEBBIE PAKLER, PHD.

Saturdays May 13, June 3, July 8, & Aug. 5  
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Certified psychic medium, **Debbie Pakler** will be at the Library to give 20-minute readings for \$40 (**CASH ONLY**). She is donating 20% of her fee from each session to help us achieve our annual fundraising goal. Come to the Library to set up an appointment. This is a unique entertainment opportunity to receive personal messages while supporting the Library!

## ISLAND CONNECTIONS

Presented by **Thomasina Larson**  
Wednesday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m.

**Thomasina Larson**, a Bethel Park resident, has published a second book about the Aeolian Islands and the early immigrants who came to America. She'll discuss the story of the people who left these tiny volcanic islands of Sicily.

## STRESS OVERLOAD

Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by **Dr. Ben Fraudin**

Learn how to reduce stress, increase performance and improve overall health.



## A NIGHT FULL OF GHOSTS

Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Lead Investigator of Ghost Quests - **Bo Conrad**

In December of 2022, Conrad set out to film a documentary; what he didn't know was that he was going to document some of the craziest evidence in paranormal history! Experience "Leviathan" like never before in the town where the demon resides. Will you dare to join us?

This documentary film is Rated R.

## FAMILY TALK: LISTENING WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

Outreach Teen and Family Services

Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30pm

In the 1-hour presentation, families will learn how to listen without judgement to improve connection and understanding with their children.

## TWO LOCAL AUTHORS, TWO DIFFERENT WRITING JOURNEYS – ONE NOTEWORTHY EXPERIENCE

Thursday, May 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening to hear from two local authors, **Nicole Spindler** and **Barbara Brutt**, where they will discuss their unique journeys to becoming authors, talk about their published works, and share how telling their stories has and continues to be an extraordinary experience.

## 3D PRINTING

Tuesday, May 30th at 12:30 p.m.

Learn the basic parts and functions of a 3D printer and its operation using FDM or Fused Deposition Modeling where filament is melted and laid down, building a model layer by layer.

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

## CRYPTOCURRENCY FUNDAMENTALS

Presented by **Andrew Czyzewski**  
Tuesday, May 30th at 6:30 p.m.

This session will consist of a general overview of the fundamental technologies used in cryptocurrency, through contrasting cryptocurrencies with the traditional banking framework. This event will not focus on cryptocurrency investments and trading.



## HOW AND WHY TO TELL YOUR LIFE STORY

Presented by **James R. (Bob) Hagerty**

Thursday, June 1st at 6:30 p.m.

**James R. Hagerty**, the Wall Street Journal's lead obituary writer, offers easy ways to collect and save stories through writing or recording. Hagerty will also introduce his new book, "Yours Truly," a guide to telling life stories.

## VACATION PLANNING 101

Presented by **Amy Mattila**

Saturday, June 3rd at 11 a.m.

Kick off your summer by joining Mattila from Never Look Back Vacations to discuss tips and tricks of vacation planning. Topics include overviews on popular places to stay, times of year to travel, budget tips, and how to make your adventures as memorable and stress-free as possible.



## ADULT SUMMER READING CLUB

Begins Monday, June 5th

**Free reading raffle!** Each book read or listened to offers a chance to win gift cards! Stop into the Library to register and for prize list.

## BOOK LOVER ERESOURCE CLASS

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

Learn how to access and enjoy a variety of e-resources available only with your Library Card. This class will cover our ebook services (*Libby and Hoopla*), reader's advisory sources (*NoveList and Select Reads*) and literature databases (*Litfinder and Biography in Context*). If you cannot make the date above, please call for a one-on-one session. Must Register – Limited Space.

## FAMILY SECRETS, CLOSETS, AND THE SKELETONS IN THEM

Presented by Author **Ann K. Howley**

Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel Park Author **Ann K. Howley** wrote her debut novel, "The Memory of Cotton," inspired by a family secret.

## DRESS FOR SUCCESS - MOBILE SERVICES EVENT

Presented by Dress for Success Pittsburgh

Tuesday, June 13th at 4 p.m.

Receive support in selecting complimentary business professional clothing, shoes, accessories, and personal care items from the Dress for Success Pittsburgh Team. You'll receive employment readiness support and connections to needed resources to address common barriers like childcare, food resources and professional mentorship.



MOST PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

## GUT HEALTH

Presented by **Dr. Ben Fraudin**  
 Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Promote better energy, reduce the bloat and improve the aches.

## OVERSCHEDULED? OVERBOOKED? IMPROVE YOUR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

Presented by PKO Counseling Services  
 Wed. June 28th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Learn how time management, organizing, prioritizing, sustaining attention, and working memory impact your daily life. Guests will receive practical strategies to manage their overscheduled and overbooked life.



## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD AGAINST BULLYING

Outreach Teen and Family Services  
 Wednesday, July 12th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Throughout the 1-hour presentation, parents will learn the motives behind bullying behavior and strategies to protect their child against bullying as well as proactive tips to handle challenging social situations.

## SHOULDER PAIN AND ROTATOR CUFF WORKSHOP

Presented by **Matt Melczak PT, DPT, COMT**  
 Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Hess Physical Therapy will be hosting a FREE workshop on shoulder pain and rotator cuff injuries.



## SOLAR OBSERVING AND THE 2024 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Presented by Local Astronomer **Larry McHenry**  
 Wednesday, July 26th at 6 p.m.  
 We will discuss where to go and how to observe the upcoming Oct. 14th partial solar eclipse and the April 8th, 2024 total solar eclipse. Afterwards, weather permitting, the author will setup outdoors a small solar telescope so that the audience can safely observe the sun and any solar features visible that day.



## PARENTING IN THE AGE OF IPHONES AND FACEBOOK

Outreach Teen and Family Services  
 Thursday, Aug. 3rd 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.

## LOW BACK PAIN AND SCIATICA WORKSHOP

Presented by **Matt Melczak PT, DPT, COMT**  
 Thursday, Aug. 17th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Hess Physical Therapy will be hosting a FREE workshop on low back pain and sciatica.

## HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Presented by PHEAA  
 Thursday, Aug. 24th at 6:30 p.m.  
 Join PHEAA's Higher Education Access Partner for Allegheny County, **Amy Sawdey**, as she presents information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available for students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before getting ready to apply for post-secondary school admission.

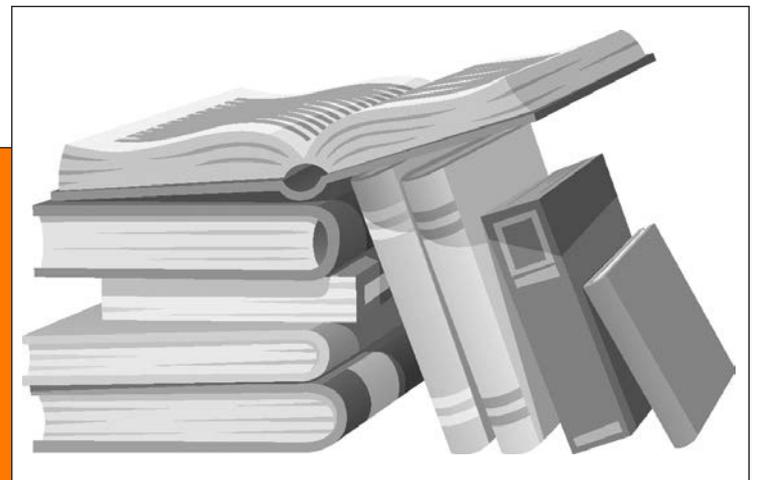


## BOOK DONATION DAYS

With the limited storage space that we have, we are now accepting donations **ONLY ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH** from 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

The Library is happy to accept both adult and children's fiction and non-fiction titles as well as CDs/DVDs, games and puzzles *in good condition*.

Upcoming donation dates: **May 6, June 3, July 1, and Aug. 5.**



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

# Bethel Park Public Library's SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

*(for ages birth through 18)*

## kicks off Saturday, June 3!

This year's theme, "**All Together Now**," focuses on kindness, friendship and unity.



Join us for eight weeks of summer learning fun including concerts, puppet shows and more.

Earn raffle tickets too and enter to win fun prizes!

Details are available on our website at

[www.bethelparklibrary.org](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org).



## A MESSAGE FROM JUDGE ARNONI...

# “Outstanding Citizen Awards” Announced!

The “Outstanding Citizen Award” is meant for an individual who demonstrates excellent community leadership, makes significant contributions to their community, and shows generosity and unselfishness throughout their actions.

In light of this, **Judge Arnoni** would like to introduce the 2022 “Outstanding Citizen Award” recipients, **Lisa Jenkins** and **Pamela Tiano**.

“The award is normally given to one individual; however, the contributions of both individuals benefit not just the Bethel Park community, but Upper St. Clair as well. Therefore, I thought it was best that both be included and be recognized for their contributions...each represents what the award is all about,” said Judge Arnoni.

**Lisa Jenkins**, along with her parents and grandparents, were all born and raised in Bethel Park. Her father drove a truck and plowed snow throughout the 60’s and 70’s when she would ride with him as a child. In 2010, she got her first truck and received her own plowing route with her dad riding alongside her.

Her career started as a nurse at St. Clair Hospital; she worked in the medical field from 1980-2005. Jenkins met her husband, Jim Jenkins, another lifelong Bethel Park resident, and the two were married in 2005. She is a proud stepmother to Jennifer Jenkins and grandmother to Aiden.

Jim helped her pursue her passion for plants and gardening by starting a new business, Flower N Stuf. After seven years, she joined Jim in his business, Jim Jenkins Lawn & Garden Center, where she was general manager and buyer. Although she had a passion for plants and gardening, she began getting more involved in the community. She’s currently on the Bethel Park Historical Society Board where she’s active in all events and fundraising. She’s also on the Board of the Bethel Fife & Drum Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and acting Chair of the Veterans Committee as well as serving as recording secretary. She’s also the chaplain for the South Park Elks Lodge

#2213 and is on the Board of the Blackhawk Family Relief Fund, where she was involved with the 2018 flood relief efforts. She’s also a committeewoman for the Bethel Park Republican Committee where she strives to promote

patriotism. And she’s the coordinator of the National Wreaths Across America Program, organizes Bethel Park community participation in the annual WAA event and ceremony at Bethel Cemetery and Peters Creek Cemetery, and participates in the Bethel Park Trolley Beautification Program where she helps maintain the flower beds.

**Pamela Tiano** was born in Pittsburgh. Her dad was in the military, so her family moved a lot resulting in her living in four states and three countries. Pittsburgh was always her home base though and when it was time for her to settle down, there was no doubt that she wanted to settle in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. And, in 2012, she and her family moved to Bethel Park.

She is a wife, mother, registered nurse, and dedicated Rotarian. Tiano obtained her associate degree in nursing from CCAC. She’s married to her husband, **Justin**, and they have two daughters, **Abigail** and **Sara**. In 2017, she was able to step down from nursing to focus more on being a wife and mom and be able to give back to her community.

She began working with **Diana Napper** and her non-profit, “Glimmer of Hope.” The organization’s mission is to fund innovative programs, treatments, technology, and research to prevent breast cancer from advancing. She also joined Rotary in 2019. This opened her eyes to so many organizations and her desire to help more led her to reach out to local rotary clubs and the Bethel Park School District about starting an Interact Club, a leadership and community-based club for students ages 12-18. Her goal was to introduce Bethel Park youth to the importance of giving back and that working together can make a difference.

With the help of the Bethel Park School District and local rotary clubs, in 2020, they were able to start the Bethel Park Interact Club. The group has grown from 12 members at its first meeting to over 100 current members. The community and club members benefitted from the work done by the group including thousands of hours of community service, food and clothing drives, multiple fundraisers, and more. They’ve been able to help organizations such as SHIM, Adopt-A-Family South Hills, Special Olympics, St. Clair Hospital Breast Cancer Foundation, and the local nonprofit, Smiles from Sean.

Through Interact, she met **Sean Rovers** and his mother, **Maria**. Sean is a BPHS freshman, two-time brain cancer survivor and current Interact Club member. In 2021, she became the treasurer for Smiles from Sean. The group has two projects: the Smiley Care Package which can be sent to children and teens with health issues and their siblings in the metro Pittsburgh region, and money raised for families in need of incidentals while they’re caring for a child in the hospital. In 2022, she was voted “Rotarian of the Year” by the Upper St. Clair–Bethel Park Rotary Breakfast Club for her work with the BP Interact Club and as chair of their biggest annual fundraiser, “The Chicken BBQ.” With her as chair in 2021, they hit an all-time record of over \$72,000 raised for local charities and organizations. She’s also a member of the Bethel Park Rotary Lunch Club, a member of the Bethel Park Historical Society, and volunteers her time with DECA by judging their local district competitions and state competition in Hershey.



*Lisa Jenkins with Judge Arnoni.*



*(l-r): Lisa Jenkins, Judge Arnoni & Pamela Tiano.*



*(l-r): Judge Arnoni, Lisa Jenkins, Pamela Tiano, & Mayor Jack Allen.*

*(“Judge Arnoni” cont. pg. 15)*

# Bethel Park Breaks Ground on new \$3.5 million Splash Park & Park Avenue Playground



On Monday, April 10, Bethel Park Municipality held a Groundbreaking for a new Splash Park and playground at Park Avenue (next to the Bethel Park Community Center). The playground will feature “The Serenity Spot,” playground equipment for children with autism or other sensory processing differences.

Stay Up-to-Date & Learn More!  
Visit <https://bethelpark.net/splashpark>

having its own featured attraction,” said Municipal Council President **Tim Moury**. “This particular park will not only be an amazing amenity for our residents but will also draw people to Bethel Park.”

The Splash Park, a \$3.5 million project, will feature three areas, a toddler area, one for younger children with a river component and float toys, and a large area for all ages with spray toys and other unique features.

“We really wanted to ensure that children of all ages would be able to enjoy the Splash Park,” said Moury. “The entire facility is also ADA accessible and will inclusive for all ages and abilities.”

American Rescue Funds from the federal government, two grants from the state and county as well as various community fundraisers helped cover the project cost. A snack stand and unisex, air-conditioned

restrooms will also be part of the project.

The approximate \$175,000 new playground, playground (located outside of the Splash Park area), will match the aesthetic of the Splash Park and feature a sandbox, swing, pirate ship play structure, a dolphin and sea horse rocker, park benches, and a picnic table.

A highlight of the playground area will be “The Serenity Spot” designed for children on the autism spectrum. This play space offers children a comfortable place to step away and express themselves freely. It features a fort-like environment with games, a spinning seat, a rubber kick pad, and a variety of calming activities. Developmental benefits include sensory, social/emotional, cognitive, and motor skills.

Local and state officials along with Municipal staff members participated in the event.



(l-r): Council President Tim Moury, Council Members Lindsay Flinn, Joe Consolmagno and Dave Espinar with his children, & County Councilman Tom Duerr.



(l-r): Councilman John Oakes & Council President Tim Moury.



(l-r): Council Members John Oakes, Joe Consolmagno & Lindsay Flinn, Mayor Jack Allen, Councilman Dave Espinar & children, County Councilman Tom Duerr, Police Chief Tim O'Connor, Councilman Joe Janosik, and Council President Tim Moury.



## Bethel Park Kindness Project Recipients Announced!

It brings us great pleasure to recognize **Jeff Counihan, Clifford Decker, Pat Labasik, Joy Palonis, and Gerry & Candy Solomon** for their acts of kindness in our community! Each of these amazing individuals was nominated by a Bethel Park resident for the kindness that they show toward others. We announced the recipients on “National Random Acts of Kindness Day!” For more on each of these outstanding individuals, watch for our BPTV Kindness Project recipient video at <https://bethelpark.net/kindness>.



# Councilman Mark J. O'Brien...

## Serving the Bethel Park Community for over 30 Years

This past February marked **Councilman Mark J. O'Brien's** 32nd year of service to the Bethel Park Community and particularly to residents of Ward 6. And, while he's enjoyed his time as a Councilman, he will not be running for another term.

"I'm retiring and this is the first step in doing so both politically and professionally. I want to spend more time with my family and be able to help them more," said O'Brien. "It's been such a journey. I've had such great mentors and amazing people to work with over the years. But, it's time for me to shift my service to other directions such as getting more involved with the Bethel Park Historical Society, being more active in my church where I'm on the Board and in the choir (*South Hills Assembly of God*), and working on the Veterans Memorial Committee until I can no longer physically do so. I'll be moving forward in all of these endeavors with my extremely supportive wife, Caroline, who grew up in Bethel Park."

From day one, O'Brien's primary goal was to bring people together.

"From the start on Council, I tried to bring everyone together to a common ground. And when **Tim Moury** arrived, he helped Council start to work together more cohesively and we began moving in the right direction. Then **Jack Allen** showed up and brought a calm independent voice," said O'Brien. "That's when Jack had the idea to build a Veterans Memorial. He reached across the aisle to me and asked me to be on the committee.

What happened in this town was a good recipe for our country and politics because we all looked at one another as legislators for a common goal. Our beliefs may not always have been the same, but we agreed to disagree, become friends, work together, respect one another, and bring our skills to the table. It was wonderful being part of that...we all shared in the accomplishments to move our community forward."

O'Brien was vital in establishing the Veterans Memorial Plaza located in front of the Municipal Building.

"I have a strong love for our country and intense respect for the men and women who have and continue to serve in the military," he said "Being part of the Veterans Memorial Committee from start to finish was a privilege. And, through it all, I met so many incredible people...many of whom are no longer with us. It also enabled me to be in contact with the author of "The Band of Brothers," **Stephen Ambrose**, and **Major Dick Winters**. Introducing Major Winters to my son is something my son and I will never forget."

"Watching my dad serve as a councilman was interesting," said **Dan O'Brien (Mark's son)** who spent most of his 35 years watching his dad be a councilman. "I got to meet a lot of nice people and see my dad show how he cares about the community and try to make it as good as he possibly can."

And while Dan doesn't have one specific memory of his father serving over the years, he does know how much his dad cares about veterans.

"Watching him being involved with the Veterans Memorial and seeing how much he cared about the veterans and wanting to get a solid memorial to honor them in Bethel Park was something that will always stay with me," he added.

According to O'Brien, an important component of the Veterans Memorial Committee was to ensure that all donations to the Memorial Fund were placed in a specific fund budget earmarked specifically for the Memorial.

"The Municipality was generous to let us build the Memorial in front of the Municipal Building. This will ensure that it will always be taken care of. And, we'll be adding seating at the Memorial Plaza this spring or summer. We hold our Memorial Day Program in the Plaza as well," said O'Brien who has helped organize the Ceremony at the site since 1999 and has sung at every Memorial Day Cemetery Service for the past 25 years. He and others also ensured that this vital program continued through the pandemic when many other communities canceled similar programs.

He also takes care of the flags all year long and works with Municipal staff to ensure that the names listed on the pavers and Memorial are correct.

"Forty-three names on the Memorial have a star beside them representing that they were killed in action serving from the American Revolution until today, and through my efforts and those of others, we honor them every Memorial Day; hopefully that tradition I started 15 years ago will continue," he said. "We also noticed that we didn't have anyone from the

Vietnam War listed, so after conducting research, we found three individuals and made sure that they are now on the Memorial."

One of his warmest memories was having his daughter and granddaughter sing with him at the Ceremony.

And his daughter agrees.

"Singing with my dad at the Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day and playing my violin is also a fond memory for me," said **Christine O'Brien (Mark's daughter)** who observed her dad as a councilman her entire life (*she's age 31*). "My dad always tried to do right by everyone; everyone in Bethel Park knew his name and he's worked really hard over the years. He enjoys helping people and tries to do right by everyone and I feel he's done that."

Over the years, his accomplishments and contributions were many; following are some of his key achievements:

He was instrumental in establishing new recreational park areas in the community. When he became a councilman, there was a lack of fields in the area. Working with others on Council, he helped establish several new facilities including the 40-acre Millennium Park now well-loved and utilized by the community and beyond. He was one of the first to walk the site before it was developed and envisioned what it could become. Through his and others' perseverance, the site came to fruition.

The community has become accustomed to hearing his voice as he's recorded numerous BPTV promotions for the Veterans Memorial, Municipal special events, and even for Bethel Park High School programs.

In his ward, O'Brien worked extremely hard to address flooding issues. He was involved with three major projects to find funds to build and hold back millions of gallons of water to try and ensure that residents were protected from the type of flooding they experienced in 2018. And, during that flood, he jumped in and helped residents clean their homes and even physically crossed flooded areas, holding on to fencing as he did so, to reach residents in need of support.

"Mark is very dedicated and thrives on helping people and addressing residents' concerns," said Municipal Council President **Tim Moury**. "He worked on the Logan Creek Project for years until we were able to come up with a resolution and that resulted in the installation of two stormwater ponds put in at the Industrial Park. We reached across the aisle to then State Representative **John Maher** who helped us receive about a \$1 million grant that funded the project."

"He was also very dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial and to what area veterans mean to the community," added Moury.

O'Brien and his wife **Caroline** also rose to the occasion during the covid pandemic when he worked with his church, the Municipality and other community groups to bring food to residents in need. He helped gather food at the Bethel Park Community Center and even delivered food to residents' homes if necessary.

South Hills Assembly of God Pastor **Pete Giacalone** said that when the church organized two car cruises to bring people out again following the pandemic, O'Brien and his wife were part of the program.

"I can't say enough good things about Mark. He's heavily involved with our worship team; he's always in front leading and worshipping with us. He's just a go-getter. He and his wife have also been part of the team representing our church on Community Day and helped with our gift basket program to police, fire and EMS departments as well as to Bethel Park schools,"

said Pastor Giacalone. "He's always thinking ahead and is an encourager and uplifting to others."

Over his 32 years, O'Brien has volunteered for veteran events, sporting events, youth groups, nursing homes, and more singing to honor and bring joy to all whom he met. He also spoke at local schools about being a councilman and was a 'reader' for Read Across America Day. Being a founding father of the Pioneer West Historical Society by Settlers Cabin Park was also something that he's extremely proud of.

He also worked to stop Port Authority from removing T stops in Bethel Park. And he twice stopped a cell phone tower from being placed in his ward – once last year and once five years ago. "We challenged the placement of the towers and we won; I'm very proud of that," said O'Brien.

This love of community and wanting to serve is part of his family's dynamic.



“What happened in this town was a good recipe for our country and politics because we all looked at one another as legislators for a common goal. Our beliefs may not always have been the same, but we agreed to disagree, become friends, work together, respect one another, and bring our skills to the table. It was wonderful being part of that...we all shared in the accomplishments to move our community forward.”

Councilman Mark J. O'Brien

“Mark is very dedicated and thrives on helping people and addressing residents' concerns.”

Council President Tim Moury

# BP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

## A Message from the Fire Chief: *Dave Gerber*



**Time for Spring Cleaning!** After a few cold months, the ground may have shifted outside of your emergency exits. This can be especially true for basement exits not often used. Make sure the door opens freely and you can exit safely. It's much better to find the problem now and correct it versus when you may need it in an emergency! And, Summer is right around the corner meaning that it's time for grilling and storms! Below are some safety tips to help prevent problems you may encounter.

### Grilling Safely

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. **Over 1,000 house fires every year start from a grill that is outside on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.** Grills can be very hot, causing burn injuries.

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Here in Bethel Park, grills are prohibited from being used on apartment balconies.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area and never leave your grill unattended.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- For a propane grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there's no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.
- For charcoal grills there are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel. If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources. There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use. When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before discarding them in a metal container. Eat up and remember to grill safely!

### Thunder and Lightning Storm Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. But did you know that lightning strikes and lightning fires occur most often in the summer? Know what to do to keep yourself and your family safe when it does strike!

Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles from rainfall. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, a large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away. Do not go under tall trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.

Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.

If you feel your hair stand on end, that means lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.

**If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and get medical care immediately. Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately.** Check their breathing, heartbeat and pulse. CPR may be needed.

If you are inside when lightning strikes are possible, unplug appliances and other electrical items like computers and turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off. Stay off corded phones, computers and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.

If traveling on roadways after a major storm, do not try and clear trees or wires off roads that might be blocked. Often a tree might have brought down power lines that can severely injure you if you come in contact with the line or the tree that is contacting them. The best thing to do is call 911 and report the road blockage so it can be properly cleared.

*("Message" cont. pg. 13)*

## Get To Know Your Fire Fighters!

Following is some information about a few of our members. We'd like to point out that many did not have any experience in public safety before joining. Many joined at different ages and from different backgrounds. **These are your neighbors who volunteer their time to serve and safeguard the community of Bethel Park.**

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company (BPVFC) takes great pride in the fact that we remain 100% volunteer and strive to remain that way in the future. If you or someone you know is interested or has questions about joining, please email us at [join@bethelparkvfc.com](mailto:join@bethelparkvfc.com), send us a message on Facebook or fill out an application on our website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com).

### ROBERT GALAMBAS

Robert has been a member for 65 years and before joining was a "mascot" for three years! He joined at the age of 21 with some experience that he gained with the Bexar County Fire Department in Texas while he was in the military.

His father was a member and Robert began going to the firehouse when he was 10 years old. He would help work the carnivals we used to host and would also go house to house delivering and picking up the carnival raffle tickets.

After he joined, he held several officer positions including 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Captain, 1st Assistant Chief, Vice President, President, and member of the Board of Directors. Robert had a career as a project engineer and primarily responded from the Brightwood Station.

Robert, his wife Sandra and daughter Diana had lots of great times with fellow members and their families over the years. Some fun things to know about him is that he had an antique fire truck for several years and has put together the history of the BPVFC for the first 50 years!

*Thanks for your many years of service to the Bethel Park community!*



*("Members" cont. pg. 13)*



### Now Accepting Applications

We're now accepting applications and need all the help we can get! The hours might be odd and the pay doesn't exist, but you'll get a cool new outfit to wear when helping your community!

## BPVFC MEMBERS

(cont. from pg. 12)

### GREG AND JOSH POHODICH

This father/son combination is something to be proud of! Greg Pohodich joined the BPVFC in 1996 after first serving with Greenock Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC) in Elizabeth Township. He started his volunteer career in the fire service at age 16 and now holds over 41 years as an active volunteer between GVFC and BPVFC.

Greg has been a Lieutenant, member of the Board of Directors and President of the BPVFC. While living in Bethel Park, he primarily responded to Station 3 on Clifton Road.

He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and business administration and works as a software sales executive. He's also the proud owner of Waterway of Central Florida which tests fire hoses and ladders for fire companies. Greg and his son Joshua started the business with zero customers and are now the #1 provider in Florida.

Greg used the free training and experience from being a volunteer firefighter to get started in this business, which is a largely unrecognized benefit of being a volunteer firefighter.

When asked why he became a volunteer, Greg said it was to follow in the footsteps of his older brother.

"It was exciting being able to learn from him and give back to the community. There is no question, it does provide an adrenalin rush when going into a burning house, but also it provides satisfaction helping others."

His favorite part of being a volunteer firefighter is the brotherhood. "It's a family and we would do anything for each other."

When Greg isn't working or volunteering, he enjoys fishing, boating, and going to Walt Disney Parks. He's been supported at home with his volunteer firefighting by his wife **Carol**, and children **Greg (30)**, **Brianna (27)** and **Joshua (25)**.



Greg wishes that more people in the community would be involved in the fire department.

"It's a volunteer organization that needs so many different people to help run it. **Each and every person brings something different to the fire department, but ultimately, it brings their skill or passion back to the community.** Everyone does something exciting, why not bring our passion to the fire department?"

Greg's son Josh has now been a volunteer with us for 6 years and also primarily responded to Station 3 on Clifton Road with his dad. He had no previous experience other than hanging around his dad at the station from time to time. He has obtained many state fire certifications since joining the BPVFC including Firefighter 1.

Josh works in the construction industry and enjoys being outside camping, fishing, boating, and riding motorcycles and quads. He joined to follow in the footsteps of his father. He's always been extremely proud of what his dad did and wanted to enjoy more time with him.

Josh's favorite part of being a volunteer is helping people in the community and the adrenaline rush. He also serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Broughton Fire Department and looks forward to his future in firefighting.



## CHIEF MESSAGE

(cont. from pg. 12)

### Flash Flood Safety

In recent years, we encountered severe flooding within Bethel Park. Several roadways, pedestrian bridges and cars were swept away. We ask that during an event like this, you remain home if at all possible. Most of the flooding and rescues that were performed occurred after the rain had slowed or stopped.

Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water carrying rocks, mud and other debris. Some of the creeks were powerful enough to carry cars and dumpsters.

After flooding, roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.

If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded, remain on firm ground. Moving water only 6" deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. If you encounter a flooded roadway, it's best to turn around and go another route if possible. In 6" of water, it can often reach inside your car. And, 1' of water can cause your car to become stuck or your engine to stop. In 2' of water, your car, SUV or truck can float away.

If at any time you come across a flooded roadway or are stuck in flood water, don't hesitate to call for help at **412-833-2000** or **911**.

### Your Support is Needed!

The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company's **2023 Fundraising Drive** will be starting soon. Residents can expect to receive our fundraising support request around the beginning of May.

The BPVFC is 100% volunteer and members spend thousands of hours each year training and responding to calls – **over 600 calls in 2022 alone!**

Your donations are critical to this effort and are used to purchase, maintain and repair almost all of our firefighting equipment. This includes our trucks, turnout gear and many other firefighting/rescue tools.

### Please support us as if your life and property depend on it...*Because they do!*

To donate, please visit our website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com/donate](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com/donate) or check your mailbox for the flyer you should have received that includes options for donating via Venmo and PayPal.

**P.S. The Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company only requests your financial support through our annual direct mail fundraising letter and donation form.**



If you are contacted by telephone from someone using the "Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company" name, be advised they **DO NOT** represent our organization.

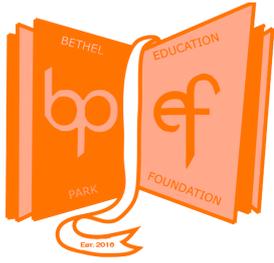
**We thank you in advance for your support!**

**Join Us!**

### BPVFC Member Benefits!

- Free gym with 24/7 access
- Networking (*many different members work as lawyers, insurance agents, carpenters, landscapers, teachers, police officers, etc.*); a great place to network
- Free nationally recognized training (*learning new skills*)
- Quiet spaces to work remotely
- Fun family-friendly events for members
- Resume builder
- Life insurance

Ready to Complete a Member Application? Visit [www.bethelparkvfc.com](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com).



# BETHEL PARK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Bethel Park Education 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.



Public schools face a variety of new challenges as state and federal funding sources have been reduced or eliminated. BPEF hopes to find alternate ways of funding important initiatives within our schools. The Foundation does not receive any public funding – our programs are supported by individual, community, corporate partners. Our partners 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 Education 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

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

Please direct any questions to:  
[bpefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bpefoundation@gmail.com)

### STEAM Grants

STEAM grants are awarded to students, teachers, and schools to foster creativity, innovation, and imagination. Grant initiatives will be evaluated for their ability to:

- engage collaborative interactions
- develop interdependence and independence skills
- encourage resiliency by being task focused & disciplined
- promote self-awareness and mindfulness
- develop critical and creative thinking skills

### Individual Teacher Grant

The Individual Teacher Grant funds initiatives that are innovative and stimulate student learning and creativity.

Teacher initiated projects that are funded will be evaluated to:

- encourage, uplift, edify, and challenge the student
- provide unique educational opportunities
- augment existing curriculum
- evaluate the successful achievement of the stated objectives
- consider the possibility of replication in other schools.

### Individual School Grants

The Individual School Grants program seeks to provide funding to an individual school. Grants may be awarded in three categories – elementary, middle school and high school.

The purpose of the Individual School Grant is to:

- provide financial assistance for schools to substantially improve student achievement.
- implement comprehensive school improvement programs that are based on reliable research and effective program practices.
- place emphasis on basic academics and parental/care-giver involvement.
- determine the successful achievement of the stated objectives.
- consider the possibility of replication for other schools.

### Individual Student Grants

Enhancing and encouraging excellence in education for the student is the absolute focal point of the BPEF. There is no ceiling to the creativity and innovation of the student mind. In that spirit, the grant program needs to remain flexible and adaptable to student proposals.. As such, grants may be awarded to any student at any grade level in any discipline of study. Additionally, grants will be considered for all physical activity endeavors and all forms of the arts.

No grant shall be administered as a direct monetary payment to the awardee. No grant will be awarded for food, beverages, parties, recreational activities nor field trips.

### Dear Fellow Bethel Park Alumnus/Alumna:

**We need your help! As a Bethel Park graduate, you know that providing quality education requires investment during and after school hours. Please consider making a donation to support the BPEF ensuring that all Bethel Park students can continue to enjoy the same opportunities for engagement and success.**

Your tax deductible contribution can be made via any of the following methods:

- Directly from the BPEF website – [www.bethelparkfoundation.com](http://www.bethelparkfoundation.com).
- Via United Way of Southwestern PA by entering code#12998472 on your contribution form through your employer
- By mailing a check to: Bethel Park Education Foundation, 301 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

You may also wish to consider making a contribution to the BPEF through your business and receive a PA tax credit.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Bethel Park Education Foundation

### 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

301 Church Rd. • Bethel Park, PA 15102 • 412-760-9614 • [bethelparkfoundation.com](http://bethelparkfoundation.com)

# WHAT IS THE BPCF?



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 five 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](http://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 BP Police, the BP Volunteer Fire Company, Tri-Community South EMS, and a wide range of community-focused activities than through a 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 have special funds with the BP Community Foundation.

And, please remember 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](mailto:info@bpcf.org) or call 412-831-6800, x740.

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

*Your tax-deductible contributions at work in our community!*

## Playground Grant Awarded



We recently approved a NEW grant in the amount of \$3,000 for a new piece of inclusive playground equipment at the Park Avenue playground. This equipment will be known as "The Serenity Spot," a fort-like structure that provides a space for children with autism or other sensory-processing differences to express themselves freely. Features include a kick-flap, a mirror for expressing emotions, and other moving objects to manipulate. Developmental benefits include motor skills, cognitive skills, visual and tactile sensory processing, and social/emotional skills.

We're excited to see this structure be used by members of the community and look forward to it being added!

## BPCF Trustees Honored



Two BPCF Trustees were recently recognized for their contributions to our community. **Dr. Michael Dobos** was inducted into the Bethel Park High School Alumni Hall of Fame and **Pamela Tiano** received the BP/USC Outstanding Citizen Award from **Judge Arnoni**. *Congratulations!*

## 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.



## 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



## JUDGE ARNONI

*(cont. from pg. 9)*

Each of these individuals was presented with a commemorative medal and certificate as well as a gift certificate from Bella's Restaurant.

"I'd like to thank those who participated and extend a special thank you to **Jennifer Jenkins** for nominating Lisa, and a special thanks to Pamela's daughters, **Sarah** and **Abigail**, and her husband **Justin** for her nomination," said Judge Arnoni.



*Pamela Tiano and Judge Arnoni.*



*(l-r): Judge Arnoni, Jim Jenkins, Lisa Jenkins, Pamela Tiano, Justin Tiano, & Chief Jon Wharton (Upper St. Clair Police Department).*

# BETHEL PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BPPD Welcomes New Officer

Please welcome our newest Officer, **Jennifer Buzzatto**, who was sworn in by **Judge Arnoni** in February. Officer Buzzatto attended Robert Morris University and previously worked for Sewickley Heights PD. All new officers undergo an intensive Field Training Program before being released for solo patrol.

## Merit Award Winners

At the February Municipal Council Meeting, **Chief O'Connor** presented three officers with the 2022 Merit Award. Every year since 1969, Bethel Park Police Department Officers have nominated their peers who they feel display outstanding devotion to duty and are a credit to the Department.

The 2021 winners are:

- 1st Place – **Officer Craig Smeltz**, *Patrol Division*
- 2nd Place – **Sergeant Sean McGrail**, *Patrol Division*
- 3rd Place – **Detective Sean Gorman**, *Investigations Division*

*Congratulations!*



Officer Buzzatto with Judge Arnoni.

Chief O'Connor, Officer Smeltz, Sergeant McGrail, & Detective Gorman.



## Officer Zinsmeister Retires

We want to recognize **Officer Scott Zinsmeister** on his retirement from the Bethel Park Police Department after 28 years of service. Officer Zinsmeister started in 1995 and spent many years as the Department's Crime Prevention Officer, building valuable relationships with students and community members.

*Congratulations and enjoy your next chapter!*



(l-r): Officer Smeltz, Sergeant Stiglich, Officer Zinsmeister, Detective Mattes, & Sergeant McGrail.



**Timothy C. O'Connor,**  
Chief of Police  
**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](mailto:crimewatch@bethelpark.net).

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

**Facebook Page:**  
Bethel Park Police Department  
**Twitter:**  
[@bethelparkpd](https://twitter.com/bethelparkpd)  
**Instagram:**  
[bethelparkpolice](https://www.instagram.com/bethelparkpolice)



## 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.



## Summer Safety Tips

As temperatures warm up, many people leave windows and doors open to enjoy the nice weather. Unfortunately, criminals can also take advantage of this loosened security. We encourage residents to keep exterior doors locked at all times and close and lock windows when you're not at home. Additionally, please close your car windows and sunroof when your car is parked and remove all valuables from view.  
*Don't give thieves the opportunity to ruin your summer!*

## Keep Bethel Park Looking Sharp!

With nice weather comes growing grass, trees and shrubs. Please help us keep the community looking nice by keeping grass under 8", controlling weeds and other obnoxious vegetation and trimming shrubs and trees which obstruct road signs and public right-of-ways.

Police and Code Enforcement will be out looking for violations and addressing them as appropriate. (BP Ordinance 33.2)



## Be Part of the Bethel Park Crime Watch Program!

Monthly Crime Watch meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Bethel Park Community Center.

Meetings 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. Along with meetings, the program also includes communication via email alerts and special events.

### 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 updated 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 <https://bethelpark.net/police>.

## Road Program Underway

It's spring and our Road Program is now underway! The program consists of paving, Rejuvenator application and landscaping.

Inlet work along with road milling and paving has already begun starting at the south end of town and working toward the north according to Bethel Park's Road Program Coordinator **Lou Lambros**.

"Youngblood Paving will once again be doing this portion of the work," said Lambros. "This year we have \$2 million budgeted for the whole program including paving, Rejuvenator application and landscaping."

Rejuvenator application will begin at the end of May on roads paved last year.

"Rejuvenator is sprayed on newer paved roads and reactivates the binder to slow down the aging process. It's like a penetrating asphalt sealer," said Lambros.

According to Lambros, after roads are sprayed, the product soaks in for 30 minutes and then sand is placed over the surface. The following day, a street sweeper cleans up the sand.

Pavement Technology is once again overseeing this process. Roads are sprayed the year after they're paved and then again three years later.

"We also contract with Telegraphis Landscaping and they take care of grass restoration after milling and paving are complete," said Lambros.

Road Program updates will be posted on the Municipal Facebook page ("*Municipality of Bethel Park*") and on the website (<https://bethelpark.net>).



## Major changes at BPTV!

BPTV has taken tremendous strides to make it easy for the Bethel Park community to create television content and provide more ways for you to watch, as well!

### VIDEO ON DEMAND

In February, BPTV launched its first-ever, exclusive video-on-demand channels housed on [BethelPark.net](http://BethelPark.net). The on-demand channels allow you to watch all of our latest content right from your smart device. There's also a TV guide on the home page where you can discover when a program is being broadcast on our cable channels.

### CHANNEL UPDATES

As of March 2023, BPTV has been moved on Comcast's cable channels.

BPTV's public access station may no longer be Channel 7, but it is still the pulse of Bethel Park. Those of you familiar with BPTV as channel 7 on Comcast will now be channel 21. The government channel has also moved from channel 17 to 95. All of the great content you've come to expect, including the bulletin board which was updated in 2021, is still the same.

Aside from VOD and Comcast, Verizon still broadcasts our public access channel on 32 and government on 31, and our extended archives of all programming remains accessible on Youtube.

### BETHEL PARK VIDEO CLUB

BPTV plans to work with Bethel Park School District to create the

Bethel Park Video Club! The Club will meet weekly on Mondays from 3-4:30 p.m. throughout the school year at the BPTV Studio – 5100 W. Library Ave.

This is an opportunity to provide instruction to create the foundation and pave a path for any student who may be considering electronic media and communication as a career.

Facility Director **Dave Cable** and BPTV's Production Assistant and 93.7 The Fan Radio Producer **Nicholas "Harry" Callas** will host BPHS's Video Club. Students will have the opportunity to help local producers or even create content themselves!

All students are encouraged to attend on Mondays, even if just slightly interested or want to learn more.

"We've seen students with a serious interest in media production go on to have successful careers based on the time they've spent at BPTV," said Cable.

If you are a student or parent of someone who might be interested in joining the Video Club, please contact BPTV at 412-831-3304 or [dcable@bethelpark.net](mailto:dcable@bethelpark.net).



### OUR CHANNELS HAVE CHANGED!

- BPTV Channel 7 is now on CHANNEL 21.
- Government Channel 17 is now on CHANNEL 95.
- BPTV produces over 500 programs each year!
- New "On Demand" channels present the latest episodes of every BPTV program.

BPTV...The Pulse of Bethel Park!  
5100 W. Library Ave.  
412-831-3304

## Mental Health First Aid

by: Kelly Gyurina, Program Volunteer

It should come as no surprise that the United States is experiencing a mental health crisis. The National Alliance for Mental Illness states 1 in 5 teens/young adults are currently living with a mental health condition, a figure which may be higher as many cases go unreported. Young people are navigating unprecedented stressors, including a lack of personal connection as a result of social media, continued school violence, increased issues with bullying and cyberbullying, and an overwhelmingly negative social and political climate.

Adults want to help alleviate these pressures, but often don't know where to start. **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)-Youth, which is now being offered by Outreach Teen & Family Services, can be the first step.**

MHFA is an evidence-based program that teaches adults how to identify the common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance abuse challenges among children and adolescents in both crisis and non-crisis situations. The goal is not to diagnose, but merely to assess and help young people take the necessary steps to get the help they need.

Any adult who has consistent contact with children and teens – particularly parents, teachers, coaches, and guidance counselors – are good candidates for MHFA training.

The curriculum can be completed in one day and follows a 5-step action plan (ALGEE):

- Assess for risk of suicide/harm;
- Listen non-judgmentally;
- Give reassurance and information;
- Encourage appropriate professional help; and
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

Conducting the training for Outreach is **Kelly Gyurina**, a full-time mother of three and volunteer community member who has a passion for making a difference in the lives of those who struggle with mental health issues, particularly children, adolescents and teens. She's always searching for new ways to support our communities' youth and places an emphasis on prevention methods. Seeking a way to make an immediate impact, she found the MHFA program through an internet search and within two months, completed the necessary training to become a program instructor.

Gyurina is offering upcoming MHFA-Youth trainings for Outreach at the Bethel Park Community Center in May as well as the Castle Shannon Library in September. Anyone interested in one of these sessions should contact the appropriate facility directly. If these dates do not work for your schedule, please contact Outreach's program manager, **Maggie Zangara**, [mzangara@outreachteen.org](mailto:mzangara@outreachteen.org), for additional options.

Outreach is a community counseling agency offering services to young people ages 5-21. Call them at 412-561-5405 or visit their website at [www.outreachteen.org](http://www.outreachteen.org) for more information about all the services they provide.

Please note that Outreach does not offer crisis services or response and does not have evening and weekend on-call coverage. In an emergency, please go to your local emergency room or call RESOLVE at 1-888-796-8226.

## STORMWATER SMART LAWN CARE

When water from rain, snow, or sleet flows over the ground, it's called "stormwater." Stormwater can pick up debris, litter, fertilizer, and pesticides used for lawn care. And when that stormwater flows into street gutters, storm drains, and downstream, it can pollute rivers, lakes, and streams. Follow these simple pollution solutions to help keep local waterways clean and healthy!



### DON'T MOW TOO LOW

Only remove 1/3 of the grass blade height and leave clippings on lawn to allow nutrients to return to the soil—they act as a natural fertilizer!



### CAREFUL WITH CHEMICALS

Read the label when applying pesticides and fertilizers, use them sparingly, and avoid applying them to pavement. When there is rain in the forecast, any chemicals you apply can wash downstream.



### ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN

Don't rake, sweep, or hose debris down the storm drains. Leaves, yard clippings, and trash can clog storm pipes, causing floods and polluted waterways.



### CURB YOUR WATER WASTE

Direct sprinklers toward the lawn and away from pavement to save water and keep chemicals and debris out of storm drains. Check out [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more tips to save water!





## Support for the Bethel Park Business Community

Local businesses are vital to our community! To provide support, the Municipality has established numerous initiatives geared towards raising awareness of all that the Bethel Park business community has to offer. We've also partnered with the Bethel Park Chamber to coordinate our efforts. As part of this, a section of Chronicles will be devoted to these efforts each issue.



### 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](mailto:kindness@bethelpark.net).

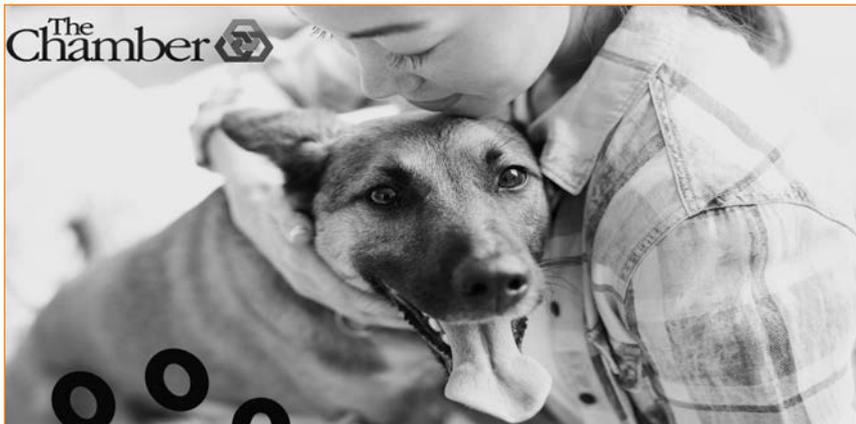
## Hiring/Vendor Fair Coming this Fall

A "Job/Vendor Fair" will be coming in **Thursday, Sept. 21** to the Bethel Park Community Center. The Bethel Park Chamber and Bethel Municipality are partnering for this event to help local businesses match up with potential employees! Visit [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org) for more details. Free vendor booths will be available to businesses who want to take job applications, interview or who just want to display their wares. Availability will be on a first come, first served basis. Vendors must provide their own signage and chairs. The Fair will run from 3-7 p.m. Contact the Chamber for more information at **412-595-8361** or go to [bpchamber.org](http://bpchamber.org). Enjoy activities, prizes and promo items from vendors!

## "Paws for Vets" Calling all Veterans Looking for a Companion Dog!

Do you know a veteran looking for a companion dog? If so, the Bethel Park Chamber is sponsoring dogs for vets who want a companion dog. All expenses will be paid by the Chamber! If interested, contact the Chamber at **412-595-8361** or email [admin@bpchamber.org](mailto:admin@bpchamber.org).

If you wish to donate toward a companion dog, the Bethel Park Chamber charity has a "PAWS FOR VETS FUND;" donations are \$350.



Throughout 2023, Bethel Park Chamber of Commerce will be raising funds to support companion animals for veterans through our partner - Animal Friends. Did you know that the cost of a companion dog, with training, is \$350? Our goal is to raise enough money to place as many dogs as possible with veterans from our Chamber communities of Bethel Park, Castle Shannon and South Park.

#### Want to Help Our Cause?

Please visit our website ([bethelparkchamber.org](http://bethelparkchamber.org)) to learn more about this new endeavor!

#### Are you a Veteran Who Would Like a Companion Dog?

Please reach out to Animal Friends at [ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Veterans](http://ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org/Veterans) and read more under their programs, Animal Friends for Veterans.



## BUSINESSES...WE NEED YOU TO COMPLETE THE BUSINESS SURVEY MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE BELOW.

### Businesses...We Need Your Input!

Local businesses, members of the Bethel Park Chamber, Chamber communities of South Park, and Castle Shannon are being asked to complete a business survey to identify their staffing needs.

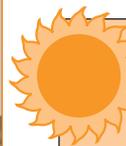
Bethel Park High School DECA students and the Bethel Park Chamber and Municipality want your help to identify any challenges you're experiencing in staffing. With these challenging times, when opportunities arise to promote, advocate and support our businesses, we want to know what resources are available and where to direct them by completing this survey.

The Bethel Park Chamber and its local government partners are putting together a Workforce Taskforce Committee to look at staffing shortages and options to assist our businesses. Anyone interested in this project should contact the Chamber at **412-595-8361** or email [admin@bpchamber.org](mailto:admin@bpchamber.org). The survey should be completed by **May 31, 2023** and returned to the Bethel Park Chamber. Online, the survey can be found at [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org) or at [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net), "Dine, Shop, Support Local."

## Chamber Welcomes New Members

The following have recently joined the Chamber: Drayer Physical Therapy, Huntington Bank, Sam's Club West Mifflin, CBIZ, Bethel Park Printing, Reality One Platinum, Ace Power Washing, and Washington Financial Bank.

Members have an opportunity to participate in savings through our members and their services. The Bethel Park Chamber now has an affiliate member Chamber Choice who offers many Health and Human Resource Service options. Contact the Chamber or go to the Chamber website for more information at [www.bpchamber.org](http://www.bpchamber.org).



### Spring & Summer Chamber Outings

**MAY 4**  
5-7 p.m.  
After-Hours Mixer  
El Paso

**MAY 17**  
4-8 p.m.  
Tri-Chamber Miniature  
Golf Outing  
Sunset Hills Miniature Golf

**JUNE 14**  
4:30-8 p.m.  
Community ConneXions  
Lion's Park

### 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.)

- Timothy O'Connor**  
Chief of Police  
Acting Municipal Manager .....X100
- Adam Steele**  
Assistant Manager .....X201
- Lisa Lapaglia**  
Finance Director .....X210
- Susan Dolinar**  
Public Works Director .....X301
- David Rudolph**  
Code Enforcement Officer .....X130
- Charles H. Stover**  
Recreation Director .....X230

Visit Us Online at [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)

#### Other Important Municipal Numbers Include:

- Emergency (fire, police, EMS).....833-2000
- Main Municipal Office Number .....831-6800
- Receptionist .....831-6800 X0
- Bethel Park Community Center .....851-2910
- Bethel Park Public Library .....835-2207
- EMS (non-emergency).....831-3710
- Fire Department (non-emergency)  
Brightwood Station .....835-1127
- Fire Prevention Unit.....835-3473
- Recreation .....831-1328
- Public Access TV.....831-3304
- Jordan Tax Service .....835-5243

### COUNCILMAN MARK J. O'BRIEN

(cont. from pg. 11)

"My father was Mayor of Castle Shannon and that's how I got involved in politics, and my brother has been the Baldwin Township Police Chief for 40 years. We come from a family that believes in public service."

O'Brien wanted to thank those whom he worked with over the years.



"I am very grateful to everyone who's helped me during these 32 years. I couldn't have done it without them," said O'Brien as he went on to mention a few individuals.

"Council President Tim Moury, the longest serving Council President in Bethel Park history, has done more for this

town than most," said O'Brien. "He's worked tremendously hard to hone in on project details and set a clear path for Council to achieve its goals over the years."

He also gave special acknowledgments to past State Representative **John Maher**, retired Municipal Manager **William (Bill) Spagnol**, State Representative **Natalie Mihalek**, Senator **Devlin Robinson**, Bethel Park Police Chief **Tim O'Connor**, then Lieutenant Governor **John Fetterman**, the late Councilman **John Pape**, all of his fellow Councilmembers (past and present), Public Works Director **Susan Dolinar**, Municipal Public Relations Coordinator **Kim Weightman**, and Municipal Attorney **Robert McTiernan**.

Before his term is finished, O'Brien still wants to complete a few projects!

"I want to solve the traffic issues at Irishtown, Logan and Patterson Roads," said O'Brien. "I want to have discussions about a roundabout and talk about other creative ideas with the people who live there so that they're comfortable with the process. Someday, I believe it will happen. I'd also like to see a bridge from the Montour Trail into the Industrial Park. In the past, Millennium Park, the

Community Center, Veterans Plaza, and the Splash Pad were all 'pie in the sky,' so now it's up to others to bring these new ideas to fruition."

He also has some advice for those coming after him.

"One of our biggest accomplishments was doing things within our means. You have ideas, and to make them happen, you have to be creative with grants, make cuts, wait for interest rates to fall, and do it without raising taxes. It's a creative art to use all the tools you have to accomplish the end result.

**"I can't say enough good things about Mark. He's heavily involved with our worship team; he's always in front leading and worshipping with us. He's just a go-getter."**

South Hills Assembly of God  
Pastor Pete Giacalone

And, it's important to bring everyone involved into the plan so that they feel like they're involved and share the accomplishments," said O'Brien.

But for O'Brien, the best part of the past 32 years has been the community.

"I've been blessed, and it's been an honor to serve the residents of Bethel Park," he said. "I hope I've done well; I've done my best."

## Your Ad Could Be Here!



Advertise in the August issue of *Chronicles!*  
Call Carla Ballone at 412-831-6800, x204  
to reserve your spot.  
Ad deadline is July 7<sup>th</sup>!

## 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

# SUMMER 2023

# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

## Learn what's new at Bethel Park Recreation!

### New Registration Procedure

We've now made it much easier to register for classes and other Recreation programs! Learn more about registering online by turning to pg. 39 for full details.

### Season 2 Park & Play Programs

Because our Park & Play Program was so successful last year, we're launching season 2 kicking off June 17 with "Fitness & Fun for All!"

We'll also be holding our "Summer Spectacular" once again, hosting a live band, holding "National Night Out," bringing back our "End of Summer Bash," adding a new "Battle of the Bands," once again hosting a "Star Party," and ending the season with a new "Wine Festival!"

For dates, times and locations, see pg. 32. And, be sure to follow our Facebook page (*Bethel Park Recreation & Community Center*) as well as the Municipal Facebook page (*Municipality of Bethel Park*) for more information as each event nears!

### Farmers' Market Happenings

The 2023 Farmers' Market opens on **Tuesday, May 2 from 3-7 p.m.** at the South Park Ice Rink on Corrigan Drive!

The season will run each week, rain or shine, through September.

We'll also be continuing our popular "No Cook Tuesdays" program at the Market. So no need to cook on Tuesdays! Just stop by the Market and pick up a ready-made dinner for you and your family!

We've added lots of new vendors to this year's Market and some other special surprises.

To read more, see pgs. 30 and 31!

### Splash Park & Park Avenue Update

Splash Park construction is now underway!

State and local officials along with Municipal staff and other guests broke ground at the site on **Monday, April 10.**

The Splash Park will offer guests a unique recreational experience in its beautiful facility!

The new Park Avenue playground equipment will match the aesthetics of the Splash Park and will also include "The Serenity Spot" for children on the autism spectrum

To learn more, see pgs. 4 & 10 and visit

<http://bethelpark.net/splashpark>.



Councilman John Oakes (left) and Council President Tim Moury at the Splash Park & Park Avenue Groundbreaking.



South Park Theatre entertaining children at last year's Park & Play End of Summer Bash!



Guests enjoying last year's Park & Play band performance!



## BETHEL PARK RECREATION

Bethel Park Community Center  
5151 Park Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Phone: 412-831-1328

Register online at: [www.bethelpark.net](http://www.bethelpark.net)  
Contact us at: [recreation@bethelpark.net](mailto:recreation@bethelpark.net)

Office hours: Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE:

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PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION.  
PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH August 2023.

Watch for project updates throughout the summer!

SUMMER 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 to 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 cases where a 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 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 publication. 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. 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 **\$5 service fee**. The Department will issue a credit letter to be applied to any non-contractual Recreation program for a one-year period in place of the refund if the individual so desires. Exceptions for use of credit letters include contracted activities such as special ticket sales.

## 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 due to a lack of registrations.

## HOW TO REGISTER

### PLEASE READ!!!

## WE HAVE A NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURE!!

**Register at least one week before the start of an activity unless otherwise stated.**

It is important to pre-register for any activity found in this publication because sometimes an activity may be canceled when there is insufficient registration. **Never plan to attend your first class without pre-registering.**

**REGISTRATIONS WILL NOW PRIMARILY BE ONLINE ONLY AT [WWW.BETHELPAK.NET](http://WWW.BETHELPAK.NET) FOR OUR ACTIVITIES!**

When you get to the main page, click on 'Departments' and then 'Parks/Recreation.' There you'll find a registration link.

If you don't have computer access, you can stop by the Community Center to register at one of our kiosks.

## USE OF PHOTOS

Bethel Park Recreation provides opportunities for positive publicity by taking photos or videos of patrons at programs for use in Bethel Park Chronicles, local media, the Municipal website, and other Recreation or Municipal social media outlets.

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 classes is not mandatory. The Recreation Department recommends that an attempt be made to attend as many classes as possible. Generally, the only skill testing to take place happens 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 interest of participants 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

**When you register for any of our wonderful classes, don't wait by your phone or camp out by your mailbox!**

**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's 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 that we received your registration.**

## Board of Parks and Recreation

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

### Department Administration

**Charles H. Stover, Director**  
**Emily Skoczlas, Assistant**  
**Director/Community Center Director**  
**James Knight, Program Coordinator**  
**Amber Armstrong, Administrative Secretary**  
**Angelina Lacek, Recreation Clerk**

### Monthly Meetings

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Community Center unless otherwise advertised.

Please contact the Recreation Office for specific meeting dates.

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

# AQUATIC PROGRAMS

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT [BETHELPAK.NET](http://BETHELPAK.NET).



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 [jknight@bethelpark.net](mailto:jknight@bethelpark.net).



## COMMUNITY SWIM MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

6:15PM – 7:45PM

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](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 5 and over

Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: BPHS Pool

## LAP SWIMMING MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

8:00PM – 9:00PM

Swim without the crowd and do laps on your own on Monday and Wednesday! Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend. The fee for nightly attendance is \$5.00 (non-res \$6.00).

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 18 and over

Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: BPHS Pool

## AQUACISE MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

8:00PM – 9:00PM

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 \$5.00 for a resident or \$6.00 for a non-resident. Sign in and pay at the pool each evening you attend.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information\*

Ages: 21 and over

Resident Fee: \$5.00 Non-Res Fee: \$6.00

Location: BPHS Pool

## PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS-WEEKDAY

Ages: 6 and over

Private Lessons on Monday/Wednesday nights from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM during Open Community Swim Hours. These weekday private lessons are great for anyone looking to improve enough to get onto the Bethel Park Recreation Swim Team, or older Adults looking to learn how to swim.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool

## PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS – SATURDAY

Ages: 6 and over

One on One Swim Lessons! An instructor will give your child individual swim lessons tailored to what your child needs. Our experienced and patient instructors will be in the water with your child while he or she learns at their own pace, whether it is getting accustomed to the water for the first time, learning basic water skills, or getting enough individual help to advance to the next level. These 1/2-hour private lessons will be scheduled during swim lessons.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool



## GUPPIES

Ages: 6 and over

### Beginner Group

Safety is key! This group is based on the very basic fundamentals and teaching water safety. Children will learn how to ask for permission before getting into the water, learn how to enter the water safely, jump into the water safely and exit the water safely. Guppies also focuses on teaching how to be comfortable in the water by learning front and back glides, rolling to and holding a float independently. To move out of the group swimmers must master the following.

- Independent Jump from the wall
- Safe entry and safe exit from the water
- Independent Front Glide
- Independent Back Glide
- Front Float & Back Float
- Without assistance front glide, roll to a back float, roll to front float (Swim - Float - Swim)

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool

## TADPOLES

Ages: 6 and over

### Stage 1

Building off the skills learned in Guppies, children are going to begin learning two of the four competitive strokes, Freestyle, and Backstroke while also learning the beginning techniques for Butterfly and Breaststroke. To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Legal Dolphin Kick by USA Swimming Standards
- Legal Breaststroke Kick by USA Swimming Standards
- Unassisted Front Glide with dolphin kick
- Unassisted Back Glide with dolphin kick
- Unassisted Front Glide with dolphin kick to Freestyle - Roll to Back Float - Roll back to Freestyle. (Must swim to the instructor, then repeat back to the wall). (5 to 7 Feet = Maximum distance swimmers will swim)
- Unassisted Back Glide with dolphin kick to Backstroke to the instructor (5 to 7 Feet = Maximum distance swimmers will swim).

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Location: BPHS Pool

**SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**



Like us on Facebook!

Search "Bethel Park Recreation & Community Center"

**SEAHORSE****Ages:** 6 and over  
**Stage 2**

Swimmers will be introduced to holding a streamline off the wall, side breathing in their Freestyle, and the arm techniques for Breaststroke and Butterfly. Children are going to be building on their endurance by swimming farther from the wall with the assistance of an instructor. To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Perfect Streamline
- Swimming 8 to 10 feet of freestyle with a side breath. (*Side breath doesn't need to be perfect*)
- Swimming 8 to 10 Feet of Backstroke
- Swimming 8 to 10 feet of Butterfly (*Legs need to stay together, arms need to break the surface, timing does not need to be perfect*)
- Swimming 8 to 10 feet of Breaststroke (*Kick and arms need to be legal timing does not need to be perfect*)

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location:** BPHS Pool**TURTLES****Ages:** 6 and over  
**Stage 3**

Swimmers are now consistently moving building distance for all four strokes by swimming half the length of the pool 15 feet with very little to no assistance from the instructor. Swimmers will be learning how to perfect their side breathing, the timing of their Butterfly, and their Breaststroke to the best of their abilities. To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Swimming 15 feet unassisted from the instructor legally of all four strokes

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location:** BPHS Pool**NARWHALS****Ages:** 6 and over  
**Stage 4**

Time for the deep end! Swimmers will build their endurance by working to swim the length of the pool in all four strokes. Children are going to be re educated on water safety, specifically regarding the deep end. Learning how to properly jump/dive from the side of the pool, off the diving board, and swim back to the wall safely as well as learning how to tread water and go into a float.

To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Jumping independently from the diving board
- Jumping from the diving board and independently swimming to the wall
- Treading water for 1 minute, going into a float, and kicking to the wall
- Swimming a full length of the pool (*25 yards*) without assistance from the instructors

Upon mastery, the swimmers will receive a certificate of completion which will be used in the registration process of the next group.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location:** BPHS Pool**DOLPHINS****Ages:** 6 and over  
**Stage 5**

Loving swimming? Dolphins is the perfect group to take right before your try out to join Bethel Park Recreation Swim Team. This group is going to provide you with a leg up on the competition by preparing you with everything you need to know for your first day. Swimmers are going to continue to build on their endurance by swimming farther than 25 yards and learning how to properly do flip turns, open turns, and diving. This group is also going to educate the swimmers on appropriate terminology that is used daily in a competitive swim practice setting. This is a great group to take in addition to or before the Sharks program. To move out of the group swimmers must master the following:

- Diving from the side of the pool
- Reading the clock
- Swimming a 50 + of each competitive stroke

Upon completion of the Dolphins Group, swimmers will be given a certificate to bring to the coaches of the Bethel Park Recreation Swim Team to receive a Free Evaluation.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Location:** BPHS 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](mailto:pghartisticswim@gmail.com) for more details.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

**Ages:** 8 - 18  
**Resident Fee:** \$40.00      **Non-Res Fee:** \$45.00  
**Twice a week Fee:** \$60.00      **Non-Res Fee:** \$65.00  
6 session dates

3400.270  
**Dates:** 05/23/2023 – 06/27/2023      **Tue**  
**Time:** 7:30PM - 9:00PM

3400.271  
**Dates:** 05/25/2023 – 06/29/2023      **Thu**  
**Time:** 7:30PM - 9:00PM

**OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The Bethel Park Slow Pitch Association (BPSPA) is a competitive, school-affiliated softball program for students in grades 7-12.

Registration for the fall 2023-24 season will be open from Thursday, June 1 - Sunday, July 23. Tryouts for JV and Varsity teams will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1 - Friday, Aug. 4 with rain dates Monday, Aug. 7 - Wednesday, Aug. 9. Junior High tryouts will be held only if there's an influx of incoming players.

Each player will be expected to commit to practices three days per week with double-header games on either Saturdays or Sundays for eight to nine weeks as well as a tournament over Labor Day Weekend. Practices begin mid-August.

Registration information will be posted at [www.BPSPA.org](http://www.BPSPA.org). Follow us on Facebook or email [bpspasoftball@yahoo.com](mailto:bpspasoftball@yahoo.com) for more information.

BPSPA is a proud member of the Western PA Interscholastic League (WPISL).

**BETHEL PARK SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

*Established ~ 1966*



**Our Mission:** To provide a quality soccer program at a fun and competitive level primarily for the residents of Bethel Park, PA!

We offer both Flight and Travel soccer programs!

**FLIGHT SOCCER: Recreational in-house play**

- DEADLINE TO REGISTER: AUG. 16
- Eligible birth years: 2014-2018
- Runs eight weeks beginning in early September
- Skills training sessions on Wednesdays
- Games played on Saturdays
- Cost:

o SINGLE SEASON: \$95

o FULL YEAR (FALL 2023 & SPRING 2024): \$170

NON-RESIDENT: \$100

NON-RESIDENT: \$180

**TRAVEL SOCCER: Competitive against teams from neighboring communities**

- DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 31
- Eligible birth years: 2015+
- Fall and Spring sessions run eight weeks in September - October and April - May
- Training are determined per team
- Games played on Sundays
- \*\*Attendance at June travel evaluation session is STRONGLY encouraged\*\*
  - o Be sure to check our website [www.bpsoccer.org](http://www.bpsoccer.org) for evaluation days and times
- Cost:
  - o FULL YEAR (FALL 2023 & SPRING 2024): \$200      NON-RESIDENT: \$210
  - o \*\*Uniforms are an additional cost\*\*

Be sure to check our website for updates - [www.bpsoccer.org](http://www.bpsoccer.org)  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## 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 \$499 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](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

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

3300.200  
 Dates: 07/10/2023 - 07/25/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## CAMPS

### JUNIOR GEOLOGISTS MINI CAMP

Are you mad for minerals, crazy for crystals, and frenzied for fossils? Join Junior Geologists for an action-packed week of geological exploration! We'll discover the unique characteristics of the rocks, minerals, crystals and fossils in our area and beyond! We'll put our skills to the test to identify real rubies and emeralds among fakes and make replicas of a fossil raptor dinosaur claw! Get ready to discover the fascinating prehistory of Pittsburgh, discovering what it was like millions of years ago! We'll learn which types of rocks you find here and in a hands-on fossil hunt, we will search through ancient local rocks to expose fossils inside that have not seen the light of day for over 300 million years!

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grades: 1 - 5  
**Resident Fee: \$100.00** Non-Res Fee: \$110.00  
 3 session dates

3825.200  
 Dates: 07/12/2023 - 7/14/2023 Wed, Thu, Fri

Time: 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

### ANIMAL ADVENTURE CAMP JUMP BUNCH



Do you have a favorite animal? We will spend the week learning the movements of a variety of animals from all around the world. Knowing that animals enjoy physical activity and play time, we will use our imagination to move just like them. This camp helps build children's gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and agility, while also improving their self-esteem and confidence. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water. Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 6/23 rain makeup day if needed\*

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 4 - 6  
 Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
 Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 3 session dates

3825.260  
 Dates: 06/19/2023 - 6/22/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 9:30AM - 12:00PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

### DARE TO BE DIFFERENT SPORTS CAMP - JUMP BUNCH



This camp will focus on a different fitness skill each day, while promoting teamwork and good sportsmanship. Some of the non-traditional sports taught during this camp are Hula Hoopla, Baggo, Ball Handling, Foot Golf, Kooshie Ball, Flying Discs, Obstacle Courses and many more. Each day of camp, we learn something new to keep your child actively engaged, while having fun in a non-competitive, high-energy environment. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water.

Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 6/23 rain makeup day if needed\*

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 7 - 9  
 Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
 Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 3 session dates

3825.261  
 Dates: 06/19/2023 - 6/22/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

### FAIRYTALE ADVENTURE CAMP JUMP BUNCH



A week of wonder and enchantment awaits you at this camp. Campers will explore a variety of fairytale stories through games, fitness, and "magic." Each day of camp, we learn something new to keep your child actively engaged, while having fun in a non-competitive, high-energy environment. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water.

Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 7/14 rain makeup day if needed\*

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 4 - 6  
 Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
 Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 3 session dates

3825.270  
 Dates: 07/10/2023 - 7/13/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 9:30PM - 12:00PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

### ULTIMATE OBSTACLE COURSE CAMP - JUMP BUNCH



This camp offers a unique, fun way to help your child build their imagination, coordination, balance, and self-confidence, while getting the exercise they need. Each day of camp, we learn something new about building and completing obstacle courses. Your child will be actively engaged, while having fun in a non-competitive, high-energy environment. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water.

Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 7/14 rain makeup day if needed\*

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 7 - 9  
 Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
 Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 3 session dates

3825.271  
 Dates: 07/10/2023 - 7/13/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

### FAREWELL TO SUMMER CARNIVAL CAMP - JUMP BUNCH



As we say goodbye to summer, this camp will focus on a variety of fitness games that you may see at a carnival. These games and activities promote teamwork, good sportsmanship, self-confidence, and focus on FUN. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water. Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 8/11 rain makeup day if needed\*

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 4 - 6  
 Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
 Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 3 session dates

3825.280  
 Dates: 08/07/2023 - 8/10/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 9:30PM - 12:00PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE FOR MOST RECREATION PROGRAMS!

[WWW.BETHELPAK.NET](http://WWW.BETHELPAK.NET)



Like us on Facebook!

Search "Bethel Park Recreation & Community Center"

## FAREWELL TO SUMMER CARNIVAL CAMP - JUMP BUNCH



As we say goodbye to summer, this camp will focus on a variety of fitness games that you may see at a carnival. These games and activities promote teamwork, good sportsmanship, self-confidence, and focus on FUN. A variety of STEAM activities are included. Please bring a snack and water. Campers will receive a shirt and themed certificate.

\*Friday 8/11 rain makeup day if needed\*  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 7 - 9  
Early Bird Fee until May 26, 2023  
Resident Fee: \$130.00 Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
Fee Starting May 27, 2023  
Resident Fee: \$150.00 Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
3 session dates

3825.281  
Dates: 08/07/2023 - 8/10/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
Time: 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Location: Park Avenue Field

## ARTS & CRAFTS

### CANVAS CRAZINESS

Students will start and complete their own canvas with different themes each session. DRESS TO GET MESSY! Must register at least 24 hours prior to class.

Instructor: Karen Hartman  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 14  
Resident Fee: \$25.00 Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
1 session dates

3805.200  
Dates: 06/01/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Dates: 06/22/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Dates: 07/13/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Dates: 07/27/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Dates: 08/10/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Dates: 08/24/2023 Thu  
Time: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center



### CARTOONING WORKSHOP

Cartooning/drawing classes with a new fun theme for each class! Students will learn the foundation of cartooning in this very fun, relaxed class atmosphere. Students and instructor tell jokes, stories and share their creations. Students end class with 4 fun drawings/cartoons complete with speech bubbles. Bring your imagination for lots of fun! Must register at least 24 hours prior to class.

Instructor: Karen Hartman  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 14  
Resident Fee: \$18.00 Non-Res Fee: \$23.00  
1 session dates

3805.201  
Dates: 06/01/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dates: 06/22/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dates: 07/13/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dates: 07/27/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dates: 08/10/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dates: 08/24/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

### PRIVATE/SEMI-PRIVATE DRAWING CLASS

Instructor Karen Hartman will hold 60 minute private or semi-private drawing instruction for students from beginner to advanced level. Lesson can be customized to the student's likes and needs while exploring foundation. Portfolio customization offered for High School Students. Student may bring their own supplies; instructor will also have sanitized supplies on hand at each lesson. Please bring a 5x7 or larger sketch book. Register at the Bethel Park Community Center for individual 1-hour lessons.

Instructor: Karen Hartman  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 16  
Resident Fee: \$25.00 Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
1 session dates

3805.202  
Dates: 06/01/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Dates: 06/22/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Dates: 07/13/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Dates: 07/27/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Dates: 08/10/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Dates: 08/24/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:15PM - 8:15PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

### ART EXPLOSION MINI CAMP GETTING OUTSIDE NATURE'S JOURNALING AND FIELD SKETCHING

Children will have fun in this four-day camp, sketching outside, learning about, observing nature, and then capturing it in our sketchbooks. We'll play games, finding the caterpillars and getting the bees home while we observe these items in nature and draw them in our sketchbooks.

We'll learn art techniques looking at positive/negative space, capturing items to scale and quick sketching. We'll observe birds, working with shapes to draw and learn ways to show movement in our artwork. We'll have fun experimenting with Plein Air Painting and learn about artist who use this method. We will use a variety of materials, sketchbooks, pastels, watercolors, water brushes, colored pencils and tempera paint. Come join us as we have fun getting creative and playing games while we learn about our world and the wonderful world of art.

\$10.00 Material fee due first day of class.  
Instructor: Sue Ralston  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00  
4 Days

3805.230  
Dates: 06/19/2023 - 06/22/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center



### ART EXPLOSION MINI CAMP CELEBRATING THE SUMMER WITH ART

Children will have fun in this four-day camp playing games, sketching outside, learning about artists, drawing and painting some of our favorite summer places and activities. We'll talk about Eric Carle and his beautifully illustrated books, then set out to create our own hungry caterpillar. We'll visit the seashore through pictures and draw our own seaside picture that was once visited by dinosaurs. Children will use a variety of materials like markers, colored pencils, watercolors, tempera paints, scissors to name a few. Everyday we will spend some time outside sketching, weather permitting, playing games and creating a picture that the children can take home that day. Come join us as we have fun enjoying the summer and learning about our world and the wonderful world of art.

Instructor: Sue Ralston  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 4 - 8  
Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00  
4 Days

3805.231  
Dates: 07/10/2023 - 07/13/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu

Time: 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## ART EXPLOSION MINI CAMP CELEBRATING THE SUMMER WITH ART

Children will have fun in this four-day camp playing games, sketching outside, learning about artists, drawing and painting some of our favorite summer places and activities. We'll learn about artist Kathryn Glowen and her mixed media artwork The Secret Garden, letting it inspire our secret garden masterpiece. Children will visit the seashore through pictures. We'll learn about artist Archibald Thorburn, and let him inspire our seagull seaside picture and our collage seashells. Children will use a variety of materials like colored pencils, markers, pastels, watercolors, tempera paints, scissors, and appliques to name a few. Every day we will spend some time outside sketching, weather permitting, playing games, and creating a picture that the children can take home that day. Come join us as we have fun enjoying the summer and learning about our world and the wonderful world of art. \$10.00 Material fee due first day of class.

Instructor: Sue Ralston

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
Resident Fee: \$85.00 Non-Res Fee: \$90.00  
4 Days

3805.232  
Dates: 07/17/2023 - 07/20/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
Time: 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## DANCE

### DANCEPALOOZA CAMP 2023

Are you ready to Dance? Have fun? And meet new friends? This camp will focus on different styles of dance...Jazz, hip hop, ballet, contemporary, and tap. Not only will we dance but, have some awesome theme days and crafts and games each day. Dance shoes are encouraged but not mandatory. Athletic shoes and socks must be worn. Please NO SANDALS OR BARE FEET! Students may dress in theme day attire if they wish. Please bring a water bottle with your name on it. Due to children with allergies, no food will be permitted! Please- contact Tammy Lentz with any questions 412-851-9142.

Monday 6/26 - Beach Party

Tuesday 6/27 - Jammin in my Jammies (wear PJS)

Wednesday 6/28 - Rock n Roll Mania

Thursday 6/29 - You've got a friend in me (bring stuffed animal or doll)

Instructor: Tammy Lentz

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 3 - 7  
Resident Fee: \$115.00 Non-Res Fee: \$125.00  
4 Days

3810.200  
Dates: 06/26/2023 - 06/29/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
Time: 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## SPORTS

### YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CO-ED

Come learn the fundamentals of volleyball! Girls and boys entering grades 4-7 will learn the basic skills including passing, setting, serving, hitting and rotation as well as the gross motor skills associated with the sport, such as jumping, footwork, and hand eye coordination. The skills will be introduced through a variety of games and drills. No prior experience needed. Emily Sarneso is a former college volleyball player and club volleyball coach. \*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grades: 4 - 7  
Resident Fee: \$75.00 Non-Res Fee: \$80.00  
6 session dates

3815.206  
Dates: 06/28/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

### BETHEL PARK CO-ED VOLLEYBALL SKILLS CAMP

Directed by BPHS Head Girls Volleyball Coach, Brooke Muraco, her assistant, Jessica Hanson, and help from the girls' varsity team, this camp will focus on the fundamentals of volleyball. Age specific skill development for boys and girls will include passing, setting, serving, hitting, defense, and footwork. Each camper will also receive a T-shirt if registered before the deadline, May 24 at 8 p.m.

Please indicate shirt size on your registration form. If you have any questions regarding registration, please email coach Brooke Muraco at [bphsgirlsvolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:bphsgirlsvolleyball@gmail.com)

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Grades: 5 - 8  
Resident Fee: \$70.00 Non-Res Fee: \$75.00  
3 Days

3815.207  
Dates: 06/12/2023 - 06/14/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed  
Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Location: Bethel Park High School Gym

### MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER CAMP

#### Camp Highlights:

- Learn how to play Total Soccer -- fast, smart, technical, and brilliant!
- Enjoy daily games and contests led by Coach Sam himself
- Compete in the World Cup and Champions League tournaments against your peers
- Learn and develop multiple new dribbling, ball handling, and passing moves and techniques

#### Camp Features:

- Coach Sam is always on site and personally teaches throughout the day
- All coaches have been standout high school players, and several were (are) college players
- Camp is open to boys and girls ages 6 - 12
- Players will be grouped by age and ability level
- Focus on learning and developing correct technique, with new skills and moves taught, demonstrated and practiced daily
- A variety of small-sided games, in-camp leagues, competitions, and contests allow players to utilize their skills and practice their new moves in a competitive, yet supportive environment
- "Word of the Day" -- A Coach Sam original, each day players will learn, discuss, and utilize a specific character attribute helpful in player and personal development
- Futsal, Soccer Tennis, and Quickness/Agility training are part of the daily curriculum
- Camper to staff ratio is approximately 8 to 1
- Campers provide their own lunch, sunscreen, water bottle, shin guards, and soccer ball

\*Parents are invited to attend the Awards Day Ceremony on Friday from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 6 - 12  
Resident Fee: \$145.00 Non-Res Fee: \$155.00  
5 Days

3815.200  
Dates: 06/12/2023 - 06/16/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri

Time: 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
(Friday 9:00AM - 12:00PM)

Location: Park Avenue Field

Look for the next issue of the  
**Bethel Park Chronicles**  
mailed early August!

### T-BALL

A fun and highly instructional introduction to baseball for 3 - 4 year old boys and girls. Players learn the basics of throwing, catching, fielding, batting, and base running, and then apply what they have learned in fun, non-competitive games. Jump Start Sports staff members conduct the instruction and oversee the game play while volunteer parent team coaches assist.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 3 - 4  
Resident Fee: \$95.00 Non-Res Fee: \$100.00  
6 session dates

3815.205  
Dates: 06/28/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM  
OR  
6:00PM - 7:00PM

Location: Millennium Park

### 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](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 7 and over  
Resident Fee: \$52.00 Non-Res Fee: \$57.00  
6 session dates

3815.210  
Dates: 06/08/2023 - 07/13/2023 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, 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](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 11 and over  
Resident Fee: \$75.00 Non-Res Fee: \$80.00  
6 session dates

3815.211  
Dates: 06/08/2023 - 07/13/2023 Thu  
Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## FENCING - BOUTING PRACTICE

Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in Advanced Fencing class.

Looking for some extra practice time. This night is an extra night for open bouting. This is for fencers who need more practice time to hone their skills and practice what they have learned in class and/or in their lessons. Only available to students in the Advanced Fencing class to get more fencing time during the week. A coach will be present to supervise and help direct and critique, but this is about getting in as much bouting time as possible. Expect stretching and a formal warm up to begin the class followed by open bouting for the remainder of the time.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 11 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
 6 session dates

3815.212  
 Dates: 06/05/2023 - 07/10/2023 Mon  
 Time: 7:00PM - 8:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

## FENCING - PRIVATE LESSONS

(Online Registration ONLY)

Sign up for an in-depth training lesson to practice specific techniques, tactics for competition, training regimens, and to push your form and skills farther than before. Each lesson is for 20 minutes, between 12:30PM - 1:40PM, be prepared to work hard during that time. Fencers need to have their own gear and be ready to go at the start of lesson time, there will not be a formal warm up like there is with the fencing class. Multiple blocks can be reserved if you like or just one lesson as needed. The focus of these lessons is to mesh between what the fencer wants to work on and improve as well as what the coach feels is necessary to increase the fencer's skills.

Register online at [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) to schedule your specific time. 12:30pm, 12:55pm, or 1:20pm

Ages: 11 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$35.00** Non-Res Fee: \$40.00  
 1 session dates

3815.213  
 Dates: 06/10/2023 Sat

3815.214  
 Dates: 06/17/2023 Sat

3815.215  
 Dates: 06/24/2023 Sat

3840.216  
 Dates: 07/01/2023 Sat

3840.217  
 Dates: 07/08/2023 Sat

3815.218  
 Dates: 07/15/2023 Sat

3815.219  
 Dates: 07/29/2023 Sat

3815.220  
 Dates: 08/05/2023 Sat

3815.221  
 Dates: 08/12/2023 Sat

3815.222  
 Dates: 08/19/2023 Sat

3815.223  
 Dates: 08/26/2023 Sat

3815.224  
 Dates: 09/02/2023 Sat

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

## MUSIC

### SUMMER BAND GRADES 5 & 6, 7 & 8

The long-running Bethel Park Summer Band Lesson Program is taught by Bethel Park School District music teachers Mrs. Rachel Skilone, Mr. Jeff Knell, and Mr. Zach Cable. Students attend band classes and musical explorations scheduled by instrument on Monday through Thursday at Bethel Park High School, with a performance for family on the last day. In addition to registering with BP Recreation, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/lessonprogram23> for a detailed calendar and to submit band-specific information that will help us to plan the program. Questions? Email the directors at [BPSummerMusic@gmail.com](mailto:BPSummerMusic@gmail.com).

**The deadline to register is July 24!** Sign up now!

Please register according to your grade in the fall.

**Resident Fee: \$80.00** Non-Res Fee: \$85.00

4 days  
**Grade 5 and 6**

3830.200  
 Dates: 07/24/2023 - 07/27/2023 Mon - Thu  
 Time: 8:30AM - 10:30AM Mon - Wed  
 8:30AM - 12:30PM Thu

3830.201  
 Dates: 07/24/2023 - 07/27/2023 Mon - Thu  
 Time: 10:30AM - 12:30PM Mon - Wed  
 8:30AM - 12:30PM Thu

**Location: Bethel Park High School**

### SUMMER STRINGS LESSON PROGRAM #1

The long-running Bethel Park Summer String Lesson Program is taught by Bethel Park School District music teacher Mrs. Maggie Sheffer and other local private string teachers/professionals. For students who have played a string instrument in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade and will be entering 5th, 6th, or 7th grade, the Lesson Program is a great opportunity for your child to learn new songs as well as revisit songs from the 2022-2023 school year. Students will work on ensemble skills, improve individual playing technique, and expand musical knowledge, all while having fun! **Students are welcome to participate in one or both of the string lesson programs offered this summer, as the music selections will differ.**

Questions? Email Mrs. Maggie Sheffer at

[sheffer.maggie@bphawks.org](mailto:sheffer.maggie@bphawks.org).

**Resident Fee: \$55.00** Non-Res Fee: \$60.00

4 days  
**Grade 5**  
 3830.202  
 Dates: 06/12/2023 - 06/15/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 9:00AM - 10:00AM

**Grade 6**  
 3830.203  
 Dates: 06/12/2023 - 06/15/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 10:15AM - 11:15AM

**Grade 7**  
 3830.204  
 Dates: 06/12/2023 - 06/15/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 11:30AM - 12:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park High School**

### SUMMER STRINGS LESSON PROGRAM #2

The long-running Bethel Park Summer String Lesson Program is taught by Bethel Park School District music teacher Mrs. Maggie Sheffer and other local private string teachers/professionals. For students who have played a string instrument in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade and will be entering 5th, 6th, or 7th grade, the Lesson Program is a great opportunity for your child to learn new songs as well as revisit songs from the 2022-2023 school year. Students will work on ensemble skills, improve individual playing technique, and expand musical knowledge, all while having fun! **Students are welcome to participate in one or both of the string lesson programs offered this summer, as the music selections will differ.**

Questions? Email Mrs. Maggie Sheffer at

[sheffer.maggie@bphawks.org](mailto:sheffer.maggie@bphawks.org).

**Resident Fee: \$55.00** Non-Res Fee: \$60.00

4 days  
**Grade 5**  
 3830.212  
 Dates: 07/24/2023 - 07/27/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 9:00AM - 10:00AM

**Grade 6**  
 3830.213  
 Dates: 07/24/2023 - 07/27/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 10:15AM - 11:15AM

**Grade 7**  
 3830.214  
 Dates: 07/24/2023 - 07/27/2023 Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu  
 Time: 11:30AM - 12:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park High School**



Don't forget to reserve a room at the  
 Community Center soon  
 for your upcoming graduation party!  
 We have rooms to accommodate  
 small or large groups.

### 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](http://www.bethelpark.net).



Thanks to Everyone Who Registered for Summer Camp!  
 OUR SUMMER CAMP IS FULL! FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION FOR THOSE REGISTERED.

**ARTS  
 CRAFTS**

**SUMMER CAMP  
 NEWS!**

**SPORTS  
 AND  
 MUCH  
 MORE!**

Thanks to everyone who registered for our Recreation Summer Day Camp Program where we'll be having lots of fun activities from June - August! Parents/guardians of registered children, please read on for more information.

Day Camp is divided into week-long sessions with activities developed around a different central theme each week.

**Camp Schedules:**

**All-Day:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Morning:** 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. with an optional early drop-off of 7 a.m.  
**Afternoon:** 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. with an optional late pick-up time of no later than 6 p.m.

There will be no camp on July 4.

Day Camp is divided into week-long sessions with activities developed around a different central theme each week.

**Weekly Camp Themes**

**WEEK 1**  
 Theme: *Elemental Minds!*  
 Field Trip June 16 - Elemental Movie

**WEEK 2**  
 Theme: *Science Matters!*  
 Field Trip June 23 - Carnegie Science Center

**WEEK 3**  
 Theme: *Lions, Tigers, Bears...Oh My!*  
 Field Trip June 30 - Zoo

**WEEK 4**  
 Theme: *Party in the USA*  
 Field Trip July 7 - Fun Carpet Sliders

**WEEK 5**  
 Theme: *A Trip Way Back When!*  
 Field Trip July 14 - Kid's Museum

**WEEK 6**  
 Theme: *Take Me Out to the Ballgame!*  
 Field Trip July 18 - Wild Things Game

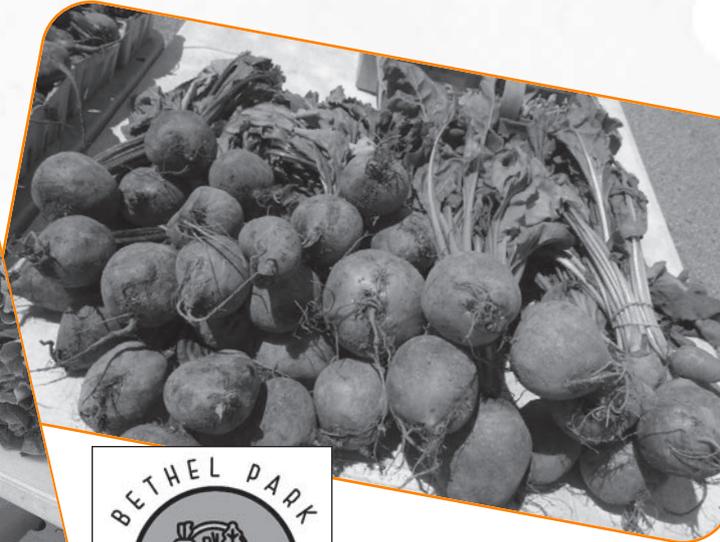
**WEEK 7**  
 Theme: *Wet and Wild Adventures*  
 Field Trip July 28 - Dormont Pool

**WEEK 8**  
 Theme: *End of Summer Camp Extravaganza!*  
 Field Trip Aug. 4 - Bounce Houses (in-house)

Please remember Camp Shirts need to be worn on ALL field trip Days!



# FARMERS' MARKET 2023



**Market Season is back and we're expecting to have a fantastic season!** The highly anticipated Bethel Park Recreation Farmers' Market will return **May 2** from **3-7 p.m.** (*rain or shine*) at the South Park Ice Rink on Corrigan Drive.

The Market has been nominated by multiple local publications as one of the top **TWO** Farmers' Markets in the area! We're excited to bring back many of your favorite vendors and food trucks and to introduce new vendors, events and more!

**We are so thankful to have the BEST customers and supporters!** Mark your calendars so you don't miss a day! The market will run each Tuesday through Sept. 26.

Want to be the first to learn about promotions, special events, and vendors throughout Market season? Check out our newly redesigned website at [www.bethelparkfarmersmarket.com](http://www.bethelparkfarmersmarket.com) and sign up for our weekly emails and newsletter!

## NO COOK TUESDAYS!



**NO COOK TUESDAYS** wrapped up another fantastic spring season! We're thankful to all our residents for coming out to support our local food trucks and vendors. And we have good news! We'll continue to hold the event at the Farmers' Market over the summer!

In the fall, we'll be back at our Community Center site! Watch our social media and website for information throughout the summer and fall!

Let great local vendors do the cooking so you don't have to!





A Generous Sponsor!

# Farmers' Market Vendor List

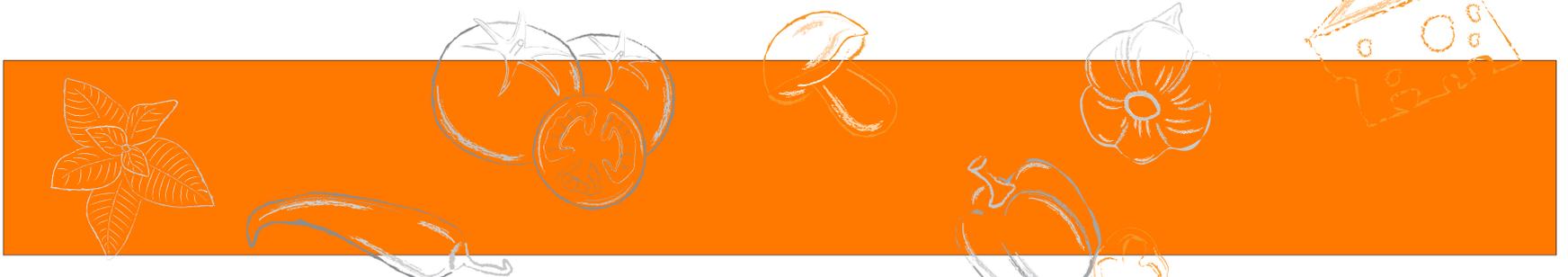
**Cherish Creamery** – goat cheese and drinkable yogurt  
**Cinco de Mayo Salsa** – rotating salsas, empanadas, tamales, ceviche  
**\*Evelyn's Farm** – fresh eggs and flowers  
**\*Goose Run Farm** – chicken, eggs, garden vegetables  
**Hello Hummus** – variety of seasonal flavored hummus and salads  
**\*Grace Confections** – classic caramels and mallets  
**Istanbul Grille** – food truck with Turkish food  
**Jodikinos Farm** – rotating seasonal produce  
**Jose Quiroz Farm** – rotating seasonal produce  
**\*Keystone Cultures Co** – kombucha and water kefir  
**La Vigneta Winery** – classic and fruity wines  
**Lil Debby's DeLights** – all natural bath products  
**Loafers Bread Co** – bread, rolls, pastries, jellies  
**Logan Family Farms** – beef and pork  
**The Olive Tap** – flavored olive oils and balsamic vinegars  
**The Pie Place** – cookies, pies, etc  
**Pitaland** – Mediterranean food, gyros  
**Pittsburgh Pierogi Truck** – pierogis, haluski, stuffed cabbage  
**Ray's Pizza** – pizza, pepperoni rolls, French fries  
**Rowdy BBQ** – pulled pork, chicken, brisket, sides  
**Rockin' Cat Organic Coffee and Tea** – loose leaf tea, coffee, brewing accessories  
**Simmons Farm** – rotating seasonal produce  
**Springhouse Market** – fresh milk and chocolate milk, pastries  
**Swope's Berries and Bees** – flavored honey, creamed honey, and beeswax products  
**Tambellini Event Catering** – sandwiches and burgers with fries  
**\*Two Acres Farm** – brinery with assorted flavors of pickles, mustards, sauces  
**Up in Suds Handcrafted Soaps** – natural soaps made from olive oils  
**\*Urban Spore** – mushrooms and mushroom compost  
**Wild River Kettle Korn** – fresh kettle corn, lemonade, iced tea  
**Wu's Shaved Ice** – shaved ice with 20+ flavored syrups  
**Beedle's Ice Cream** – classic ice cream truck with nostalgic favorites  
**\*Boyd and Blair** – potato vodka and flavored cocktails in a bottle  
**Country Hammer Moonshine** – flavored moonshine  
**Hibachi Lou** – Japanese style food truck, teriyaki chicken, shrimp, filet, fried rice



**Juree Chris** – handcrafted wooden bowls, utensils, boards, and more  
**\*Kizzle Foods** – spice blends  
**Lemmon Bros Farms** – fresh maple syrup  
**Michael T's Bakery and More** – classic cookies with a unique twist  
**Pet Wants** – treats and food for your pets  
**BrotherMonk Ciderworks** – flavored hard ciders  
**\*Cookey** – oversized stuffed cookies  
**\*Forever Green Family Farm** – cold pressed juices and freeze dried soups  
**Mitz's Meow Market** – catnip toys for cats  
**Scorch Garden Tacos** – hot sauces, tacos, nachos  
**\*Twinbrook Dairy** – cow's milk, cheese, etc  
**Wigle Whiskey & Threadbare Cider** – spirits and hard ciders  
**\*Liquid Vibes Coffee Truck** – seasonal coffee drinks  
**Auntie Anne's Pretzel Truck** – pretzels and pretzel dogs  
**Whimsical Wardrobe Boutique** – lace, crochet, feminine clothing  
**\*Cedar Bridge Botanicals** – houseplants and accessories  
**\*Kindred Flower Farm** – fresh flower bouquets and dried flower displays and wreaths  
**\*1:11 Juice Bar** – fresh juices and protein drinks  
**Chimney Cakery LLC** – chimney cakes



\*Designates a new vendor!



The Municipality of Bethel Park presents:



2nd Annual



# PARK & PLAY!

## Fun \* Festive \* Free

A FREE series of events in our beautiful neighborhood parks June - October!

**FITNESS & FUN FOR ALL**  
Saturday, June 17  
10 am-12 pm \* Village Green Park

**END OF SUMMER BASH**  
Saturday, Aug. 12  
11 am-2 pm \* Simmons Park

**SUMMER SPECTACULAR**  
Friday, June 30  
9:40 pm

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
Saturday, Sept. 2  
Time TBD\* Millennium Park

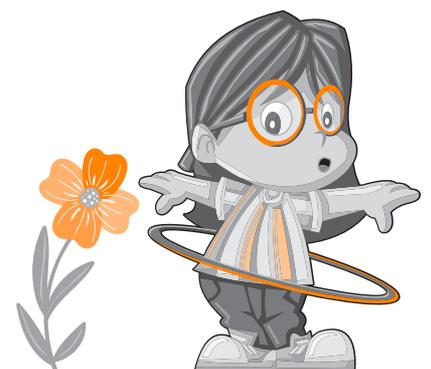
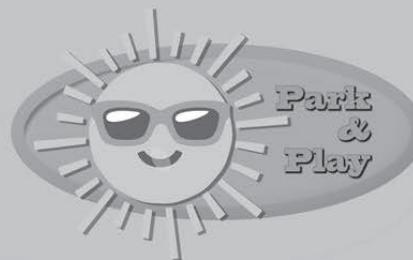
**Band - 'IDENTITY CRISIS'**  
Saturday, July 8  
6-8 pm \* Millennium Park

**STAR PARTY**  
Friday, Sept. 15  
7 pm \* Millennium Park

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
Tuesday, Aug. 1  
Time TBD \* Miner's Park

**WINE FESTIVAL**  
Saturday, Oct. 28  
3-7 pm \* Bethel Park Community Center

**FOR FULL DETAILS, VISIT:**  
[www.bethelpark.net/park&play](http://www.bethelpark.net/park&play)  
**Facebook: Municipality of Bethel Park**



## 2023 Dean Streator Summer Concert Series

sponsored by

the Bethel Park Community Foundation

SUNDAYS at 2:30 p.m.

Bethel Park Community Center

Concerts are Free \* Seating is Limited



- July 9**     **Community Band South:** Will perform a medley of marching tunes, show tunes, patriotic, and concert pieces.
- July 16**     **New Vintage Big Band:** Recreating the vintage music of the 30's, 40's and 50's.
- July 23**     **Pittsburgh Banjo Club:** Program will consist of sing-alongs, vocals, banjo, solos, polkas, and Dixieland.
- July 30**     **Allegheny Brass Band:** Featuring styles of music from classics to opera and popular music from the Big Band era through today.
- Aug. 6**     **Keystone Barbershop Chorus:** Enjoy a fantastic choir of men singing a cappella using four-part harmony.



## 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](mailto: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 age 60 and over or a resident on disability retirement and not less than age 50. A spouse not less than age 55 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 are 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](mailto:t2323@comcast.net).**



# ADULT PROGRAMS

## DAYTIME PICKUP BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL FREE!!!

Have some daytime hours free and looking for some exercise and socializing? Drop-in pickup basketball and volleyball might be just what you need! No reservations necessary, just show up when you want in comfy athletic clothes and shoes. We provide the space and the volleyballs or basketballs.

**Basketball**  
Wednesdays 9:00AM – 10:30AM  
Fridays 10:30AM – 12:00PM  
**Volleyball**  
Thursdays 12:00PM – 2:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### PHOTO PRESERVATION & ORGANIZATION

Come and join us for an educational presentation on how to Calm the Chaos of your printed and digital photo collections! Do you have print photos in drawers, frames, albums and digital photos on phones, computer, memory sticks, etc.? Learn how to organize and clean up the mess as we cover topics on scanning, media conversion, phone photos, temporary solutions and permanent solutions, metadata, cloud services, and celebrating your memories. Lisa Webster of My Memories for Generations has been helping families for over eight years to organize, preserve, share, and celebrate their memories. She will give you the information needed to make informed decisions and will help you create a photo plan for generations.

**Instructor:** Lisa Webster  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$12.00** Non-Res Fee: \$17.00  
1 session dates

3935.200  
Dates: 06/15/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

3935.201  
Dates: 08/01/2023 Tue  
Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

**SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

Don't forget to reserve a room at the Community Center soon for your upcoming spring and summer celebrations!

We have rooms to accommodate small or large groups.  
Call 412-851-2910.



## FITNESS & EXERCISE

### ZUMBA® GOLD

Summer fun and Zumba® go hand in hand! Forget working out and come and lose yourself in the music in our exhilarating Zumba® class. It's easy to do! You will soon be soaring with energy and enjoying great music in a fun fitness party. It doesn't matter where you are in your exercise ability, this is a great place to start. There are no right or wrong moves in class, the key is to MOVE! The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Come ready to sweat and prepare to leave empowered and feeling strong. Sign up for twice a week at a discounted rate!

**Instructor:** Kathy Raeder  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$35.00** Non-Res Fee: \$40.00  
**Twice a Week Fee:** Resident \$55.00 Non-Res Fee: \$60.00  
6 session dates

3920.200  
Dates: 06/06/2023 - 07/18/2023 Tue  
Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.201  
Dates: 06/07/2023 - 07/19/2023 Wed  
Time: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

3920.202  
Dates: 06/08/2023 - 07/20/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

3920.210  
Dates: 07/25/2023 - 08/29/2023 Tue  
Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

3920.211  
Dates: 07/26/2023 - 08/30/2023 Wed  
Time: 9:30AM - 10:30AM

3920.212  
Dates: 07/27/2023 - 08/31/2023 Thu  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center  
**No Class:** July 4, 5, 6

### ZUMBA® GOLD for Active Seniors

Summer is a perfect time to start a new program. Come join our expanding Zumba® family. Men and woman alike are enjoying the same great music that lets you move to the beat at your own speed. This class provides modified, low impact moves for the active older adult or beginner. It's friendly, it's fun and it's good for you, what more can you ask for. Class focuses on all elements of fitness: cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance! No experience necessary. Sign up for twice a week at a discounted rate!

**Instructor:** Kathy Raeder  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
**Twice a Week Fee: \$45.00** Non-Res Fee: \$50.00  
6 session dates

3920.203  
Dates: 06/05/2023 - 07/17/2023 Mon  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3920.204  
Dates: 06/07/2023 - 07/19/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3920.213  
Dates: 07/24/2023 - 08/28/2023 Mon  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

3920.214  
Dates: 07/26/2023 - 08/30/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center  
**No Class:** July 3, 5

## OUTDOOR POWER YOGA

This is a great class for students with no previous yoga experience. 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. Instructor has over 15 years of Yoga and Pilates teaching experience. Students must bring: a mat, water, and small towel to class.

**Instructor:** Christi Fredrick  
\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$35.00** Non-Res Fee: \$40.00  
6 session dates

3920.220  
Dates: 06/21/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

**Location:** Park Avenue Field  
**No Class:** July 5



## QIGONG

Qigong, an ancient practice originating in China, is comprised of simple, efficient, and effective movements to help manage and reduce stress, heal physical and emotional pain and enhance quality of life. Qi means "energy" and Gong means "to work with" so simply put Qigong means working with the body's energy. Qigong has movements similar to tai chi movements, yet simpler. Anyone regardless of age, ability or fitness level can practice Qigong and become healthier and happier. Some benefits of practicing include increase in oxygen uptake for stronger muscles, soothes the nervous system, improves metabolism and digestion, helps clear the mind for greater mental clarity and promotes greater flexibility. No special equipment is required, please wear loose, comfortable clothing. It is recommended that you NOT wear earrings. Instructor Vince has been practicing Spring Forest Qigong (SFQ) for over 10 years and is a certified SFQ Professional.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*  
Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
**Twice a Week Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
4 session dates

3920.205  
Dates: 06/12/2023 - 07/03/2023 Mon  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30AM

3920.206  
Dates: 06/14/2023 - 07/05/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

3920.215  
Dates: 07/10/2023 - 07/31/2023 Mon  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30AM

3920.216  
Dates: 07/12/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

**T'AI-CHI BEGINNER**

This traditional T'ai-Chi Chuan class is for the beginning student as well as the student that wants to work on the first 1/3 of the form. The difference between Tai-Chi and other martial arts is "CHI". In this class you will develop better balance, coordination and posture which is "the way" to move more efficiently and beneficial for your health. T'ai-Chi is suitable for anyone looking to improve overall health. No prior experience required. Wear loose fitting clothes and slippers or socks.

Instructor: Tamara Stark

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$38.00** Non-Res Fee: \$43.00

**Twice a Week Fee: \$58.00** Non-Res Fee: \$63.00  
4 session dates

3920.207

Dates: 06/10/2023 - 07/01/2023 Sat  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30PM

3920.208

Dates: 06/14/2023 - 07/05/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

3920.218

Dates: 07/12/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

3920.217

Dates: 07/08/2023 - 07/29/2023 Sat  
Time: 11:45AM - 12:30PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

**T'AI-CHI INTERMEDIATE**

This traditional T'ai-Chi Chuan class is for the beginning student as well as the student that wants to work on the first 1/3 of the form. The difference between Tai-Chi and other martial arts is "CHI". In this class you will develop better balance, coordination and posture which is "the way" to move more efficiently and beneficial for your health. T'ai-Chi is suitable for anyone looking to improve overall health. No prior experience required. Wear loose fitting clothes and slippers or socks.

Instructor: Tamara Stark

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$38.00** Non-Res Fee: \$43.00

**Twice a Week Fee: \$58.00** Non-Res Fee: \$63.00  
4 session dates

3920.209

Dates: 06/14/2023 - 07/05/2023 Wed  
Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

3920.219

Dates: 07/12/2023 - 08/02/2023 Wed  
Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**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 May 8, 9:00 AM.

Non-residents may begin registering on May 11, 9:00 AM.

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Ages: 13 and over

**Resident Fee: \$25.00** Non-Res Fee: \$30.00  
5 session dates

3915.200

Dates: 06/19/2023 - 07/17/2023 Mon  
Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.201

Dates: 06/21/2023 - 07/19/2023 Wed  
Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.202

Dates: 07/31/2023 - 08/28/2023 Mon  
Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.203

Dates: 08/02/2023 - 08/30/2023 Wed  
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](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$54.00** Non-Res Fee: \$59.00  
12 session dates

3915.206

Dates: 06/12/2023 - 08/28/2023 Mon  
Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Sept 4**

**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

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

\*Go to [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) for more information and to register\*

Age: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$48.00** Non-Res Fee: \$53.00  
8 session dates

3915.204

Dates: 06/18/2023 - 08/06/2023 Sun  
Time: 4:00PM - 6:00PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**The Farmers' Market  
begins on May 2.  
See details on pg. 30.**

## 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](http://www.nays.org).



## 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 program participation 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 - 12-6 p.m.**

**Nov. 1- April 30 hours of operation are:**

**Monday – Saturday - 9 a.m.-9 p.m.**

**Sunday - 12-6 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 - 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 **Gerrie Delaney**. They are veteran instructors who have been teaching **SilverSneakers®** programs for years.

Visit [bethelpark.net](http://bethelpark.net) or the Bethel Park Community Center for monthly schedules.

# BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

5151 PARK AVENUE



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.

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

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

**MAY 1 – OCT. 31 HOURS OF OPERATION:  
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
SATURDAY: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
SUNDAY: 12 - 6 p.m.**

**NOV. 1 - APRIL 30 HOURS OF OPERATION:  
MONDAY – SATURDAY: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
SUNDAY: 12 - 6 p.m.**

**THE OPEN GYM SCHEDULE IS POSTED MONTHLY ON THE BETHEL PARK MUNICIPALITY WEBSITE AND IS AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DESK.**



## 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 six months in advance.

- Requests for rentals must be submitted in writing and should include the following information: Renters' name, address, phone numbers, date requested, time requested, specific room(s) requested (*if known*), purpose of rental and approximate number of guests expected. Requests may be returned to the Community Center in person or via email to [communitycenter@bethelpark.net](mailto:communitycenter@bethelpark.net).
- Within a week, you'll receive written notification if your requested space is available or not.
- If available, we'll send you a Reservation Permit along with rental Terms & Conditions and additional rental information to complete.

### Payment Schedule

- Fifty percent of total rental fees is due with the signed Rental Contract.
- The remaining 50% is due 30 days prior to your event.
- A refundable security deposit and room layout is due seven days prior to your event.

Please note that while we want your event to be a success, failure to meet any payment deadlines may result in rental cancellation.

Fees paid will not be refunded.

### Cancellation Policy/Fees

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 one week 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.

## 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 that's needed to purchase a membership is completion of a simple membership application and photo identification (*such as a drivers license*) to prove residency; once payment is received, an identification photo will be kept on file for each member – a process expected to take less than 10 minutes. 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	Non-resident
Youth (13 - 17 years old)	\$ 5.00	\$ 125.00
Adult (18 - 59 years old)	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00
Family	\$ 25.00	\$ 250.00
Senior Adult (60+)	\$ 5.00	\$ 80.00
Day Pass	\$ 1.00	\$ 10.00

To purchase a day pass, you must provide photo ID to prove residency.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Gym memberships expire 12 months after they were issued. Please remember to renew your membership by stopping at the Community Center Desk to update your information and pay the renewal fee.

## ROOM RENTAL FEES

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

AREA	RATE	CAPACITY
Area A	\$25 per hour	49
Area B	\$50 per hour	148
Area 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	

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 INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

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

## 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.



## Community Center Facilities

**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.



New Recreation Program Registration Kiosk!

# NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES!

To make registrations easier for our participants, we're moving to online registrations! You no longer have to clip a registration form and send it or bring it in to us.

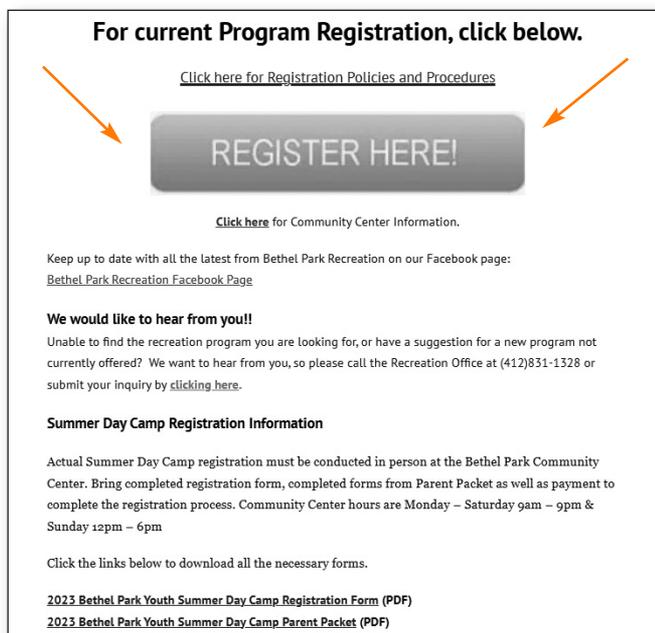
Simply visit <https://bethelpark.net/parks-and-recreation>. Click on the large orange "Register Here!" button (shown in the graphic below) and get started. And, there's no longer a credit card fee to register online for classes!

### No computer access? No worries!

Drop by the Community Center (5151 Park Ave.) to use one of our new Registration Kiosks. Our friendly staff will be on hand to assist with kiosk usage if needed!

Questions?  
Call 412-851-2910.

### Recreation Registration Web Page



## New event for Mothers & Sons... "Mamas and Masterpieces!"



Looking for an event to share with your son? Then join us on **Saturday, July 15 from 2-4 p.m.** at the Community Center for a mother/son painting event!

Moms and their sons will work on separate canvases that will form into one larger art piece during this memorable program. The cost is \$40 per mother/son and only \$10 more for each additional son. Program cost includes all supplies!

Sign-ups are coming soon, so be on the lookout! We'll announce it on our Facebook page (Bethel Park Recreation & Community Center) and website (<https://bethelpark.net>).



## Community Center & Municipal Holiday Schedule

### Memorial Day (Monday, May 29)

Community Center will be OPEN  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Municipal Offices will be CLOSED

### Independence Day (Tuesday, July 4)

Community Center and  
Municipal Offices will be  
CLOSED

# SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

District Telephone Number .....833-5000

## Central Administration

301 Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

**Dr. James Walsh**, Superintendent: .....854-8402  
**Dr. Zeb Jansante**, Assistant Superintendent: .....854-8420  
**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  
**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  
**Scott Ziehler**, Director of Transportation: .....854-8414  
**Brett Slezak**, Director of Technology: .....854-8418  
**TBA**, Director of Facilities and Services: .....854-8603  
**Chris Gawlas**, Chief of Police, Bethel Park School District: .....854-8592  
**Brandon Agostinelli**, Food Services Director,  
 Metz Culinary Management: .....854-8754  
**Dan Sloan**, Athletic Director: .....854-8548  
**Laura Grimm**, 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**, Principal.....854-8571  
**Dr. Mark Korcinsky**, Assistant Principal Student  
 Academics & Affairs .....854-8516  
**James Fodse**, Assistant Principal Student  
 Academics & Affairs .....854-8580  
 Counseling Office .....854-8595  
 Health Office.....854-8550  
 Attendance Office .....854-8572  
 Library .....854-8565  
 Records Office .....854-8584  
 Activities Office .....854-8514  
 Athletic Office.....854-8548

## Independence Middle School

2807 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park 15102

**Racquel Sutton**, Principal .....854-8677  
**Dr. George Spalaris**, Assistant Principal .....854-8678

## Neil Armstrong Middle School

5800 Murray Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

**Kenneth Patterson**, Principal.....854-8751  
**Sheryl Kremer**, Assistant Principal .....854-8756

## Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

1524 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh 15234

**Jay Johnson**, Principal ..... 854-8618

## Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

5400 Florida Avenue, Bethel Park 15102

**Teresa Doumont**, Principal.....854-8741

## Memorial Elementary School

3301 South Park Road, Bethel Park 15102

**Eric Chalus**, Principal .....854-8506

## George Washington Elementary School

515 Clifton Road, Bethel Park 15102

**Fred Pearson**, Principal .....854-8546

## William Penn Elementary School

110 Woodlet Lane, Bethel Park 15102

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

# BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS



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President



**Sharon Janosik**



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**Darren McGregor**



**Buffie Faes**



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# BPSD's Windham, Derby Named NSTOY-PA Apple Award Winners

Two outstanding Bethel Park educators have been recognized by the National State Teachers of the Year - Pennsylvania Chapter for the Apple Award: **Ms. Darrelle Windham** (*learning support*) and **Mr. Jonathan Derby** (*music*). This award is presented to Pennsylvania educators for exceptional teaching, coaching and other efforts supporting educational excellence. It recognizes members of the educational community who make a positive difference in the lives of students, school districts and the community.

Ms. Windham and Mr. Derby were each nominated for the award by their colleagues.



*Darrelle Windham (top) and Jonathan Derby each won Apple Awards.*

# ADMINISTRATION

## A Message From... DR. JAMES WALSH Superintendent



*“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.” – John F. Kennedy*

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! I wish you the best possible future.

So different is the world since the Class of 2023 entered our schools in 2010. When our seniors walked timidly into kindergarten, Apple boldly released its first-generation iPad. And by the time they finished that first year, functional and affordable Chromebooks were disrupting the technology marketplace. Chromebooks, the iPad and other newly emerging technologies have become essential tools for education and a productive future, not to mention surviving a pandemic.

Many grandparents and parents will recall algebra as a core staple of their freshman schedule back in high school. This was also when kindergarten included snack time, playtime and nap time. Algebra is now more commonly taken in eighth grade, and Kindergarten has math, reading and writing time. Step aside nostalgia, the world is in the fast lane!

As educators, we recognized the limited time we have with our students is barely enough to cover, let alone master, all the prolific and myriad standards of the core curriculum. As technology has changed how we work, live and learn, so too have the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in this world evolved and just as rapidly. For instance, when did we start measuring capacity in terabytes and speed in megahertz? Educators must maximize every minute of every day, but we must do it with sensitivity and an understanding of child development unlike ever before.

Therein lies the quintessential challenge of education in this modern era of rapid progress and sophistication of technologies. It is incumbent on the system to ensure that the programs and services we offer our students today will equip them more than adequately for a future where “new and improved” or “express” are merely tickets through the door of life. Educators must examine, discern, make thoughtful choices and develop customized student pathways. The hallmarks of an excellent 21st-century education are evolving and so must we.

This is why I believe program evaluation and staff development are vital to Bethel Park and core components of the district’s strategic plan. We will invest our time and resources in these, our highest priorities. Like our students, we are on a journey here to evolve, to refine our thinking and skillsets. What made us great yesterday is probably not good enough anymore.

## A Message From... BARRY CHRISTENSON School Board President



Over the past few Chronicles articles, I have focused a number of times on our strategic plan which provides us a roadmap for best-in-class, 21st century education. This plan helps us optimize our resources around staffing, facilities and budgets to achieve our goals in a timely and cost-effective way.

The district has communicated frequently and created many resources that cover the design and scope of the facilities projects that we are moving forward with today. I am sure however that many of you are questioning how affordable these projects are and what impact they have on our tax rates. That is what I wanted to cover in this issue.

I believe the first point to address is why these projects are needed now and why we are choosing to build a new elementary school vs renovate the six existing buildings. Our current elementary buildings are all over 50 years old and have not seen major renovations in decades. Most of the major systems like HVAC, plumbing, electrical, windows, and others need to be replaced. Because of these factors, we found that the cost to build new is about the same as renovating five buildings. The main problem with renovating five buildings is that we would still have five old buildings that are not optimized for achieving our academic goals.

So, how will we afford these projects? This point falls into two broad categories: operating costs and tax millage impact. Once our new facilities are in operation, we expect a net operating cost improvement of about \$2.5-3 million per year due to savings in utilities and maintenance. Better utilization of instructional staff will result in more effective services at a further reduced cost.

Additionally, two thirds of our staff today will be retiring over the next 3-10 years. Hundreds of teachers at the top of the pay scale will be replaced by staff starting out at the bottom of the pay scale which will reduce our payroll expenses by millions. This reduction of payroll costs will finance the facilities investments with a minimal increase in the millage rate – which is only 2.4% higher than 2015 and is significantly lower than our neighboring school districts.

We are also utilizing the project schedule to minimize overall construction costs which translates into lower debt levels that we will need to finance through bonds. Originally, we were aggressively trying to open the building in August of 2025. Once the detailed designs were complete, it became clear to us, our architects and our construction managers that our original accelerated timing would incur an expensive premium. We also are seeing stabilization and even reduction of construction costs that inflated dramatically during and after the COVID pandemic. Delaying the project completion by one year to August of 2026 is a positive change to minimize construction and financing costs for Bethel Park taxpayers.

I hope this addresses any concerns you may have had regarding the affordability of our facilities plan. I am always open to hearing from you, so please feel free to send me an email if you want to discuss more ([christenson.barry@bphawks.org](mailto:christenson.barry@bphawks.org)).

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## Transportation Director to Retire

Bethel Park School District's Director of Transportation, **Scott Ziehler**, recently announced that he would retire at the end of the school year after 15 years with Bethel Park. Ziehler started working for the District in July of 2007 and has left an imprint on the Bethel Park community.

In his role, Ziehler supervises the entire transportation department of drivers, mechanics and aides. He would occasionally drive some students himself or serve as a school bus aide, noting that connecting with students and staff over the years and watching them grow was his favorite part of the job.

"I truly appreciate what our school bus drivers and aides do daily for our families," he said. "Not only are they responsible for safely transporting students to and from school each day, but they are also the first and last interaction many of our students have with a district employee each day, and they can often set the tone for how the rest of the day or evening is going to go."

Ziehler acknowledges that he will miss that sense of camaraderie working for a school district fosters. "The people around here are very supportive, and so is the district," said Ziehler. "I'm certainly going to miss being a part of such a wonderful community."

A Dayton, OH native, Ziehler plans to move with his wife to Charleston, SC, over the summer to be closer to his family.

Ziehler will not miss Pittsburgh's notoriously fickle weather.

"In my line of work, there's nothing worse than a forecast that calls for a 'light dusting of snow,'" he said.



Scott Ziehler

"When it's going to be especially cold or dump a foot of snow on the region, it's pretty cut-and-dried as to what that means for my department," he said. "But a 'light dusting' can mean so many different things and have dozens of potential outcomes depending on all kinds of factors beyond our control, like when it snows, where it snows, how much it snows, other conditions like ice, how well the road crews have addressed the roads, etc. It's much more complex than many people assume."

"The only certainty I have when I hear that we're getting a 'light dusting' is that means I'm not going to sleep much, if at all, that night," he laughed. "I'm definitely not going to miss that part."

"We would like to thank Scott Ziehler for all that he has been able to build in the Transportation Department over the past 15 years. He has created a family within the department and nice experiences for

our children. We wish him the best," said Superintendent of Schools **Dr. James Walsh**.

**Maria Quinn**, the administrative assistant and dispatcher, will assume some of Mr. Ziehler's responsibilities. Other administrative tasks will fall under **Dr. Mark Korcinsky**, who will serve as the district's director of facilities and operations.

## Bethel Park School Community Rallies Around Teacher Stricken with Leukemia

In April, the friends and family of **Kim DeBald** hosted a replenishment blood drive for her benefit at the Pittsburgh Pride All-Stars multipurpose room in Canonsburg.

DeBald has spent 29 years teaching in the Bethel Park School District, where she is a favorite among students and colleagues alike.

Recently, the veteran educator was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). She needed multiple blood and platelet transfusions during treatment and will need more.

"It surprised me how much blood I needed, which made me realize how many other patients depend on blood transfusions to keep healing their bodies and souls," she said.

**Nicole Loebig**, a sixth grade math teacher at Neil Armstrong Middle School and a close friend of DeBald's, helped organize the event. According to Loebig, the decision to hold this event is just another way for Kim's friends and family to support her in her journey to recovery.

"Knowing how impactful blood donation is to patients like Kim led us to set up a drive in her honor," said Loebig. "We hope that not only will people continue to rally around Kim, but also learn the importance of the selfless act of donating blood."

## Lysol Donates More than 30,000 Cleaning Wipes

In February, the Frontline Impact Project and Lysol US donated 30,000 Lysol Wipes to Bethel Park. As the district navigated through cold and flu season, the wipes were crucial in safeguarding Bethel Park students from harmful germs while in school. Lysol's generosity provided immediate assistance to BPSD students and eliminated the need for wipes on our school supplies lists for the remainder of the school year and beyond.

"Classroom cleanliness is more important to schools than ever," said **Ryan Quinn**, the district's former director of facilities and services. "We extend our sincerest thanks to Frontline and Lysol for their unwavering support in maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff."

The donation equaled a total of \$142,500.

## Bethel Park's FCCLA Club Earns Honors at State Leadership Conference

Bethel Park Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club members recently participated in the FCCLA State Leadership Conference and Competition at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

The students worked for months on their projects, met and networked with their peers at other area schools, and benefited from various workshops.

Seventh graders **Alyssa Abel** and **Carigan Yasher** earned the Gold Award for their project, "Sugar-Free Fantasy," in the category of Food Innovations Level 1.

Sophomores **Lakshmi Andraca** and **Maggie Babyak** were named Silver Award winners for their project, "For the Birds," in the category of Focus on Children Level 2.

Freshmen **Cecilia Romary** and **Keira Ross** also won a Silver Award. They earned Pennsylvania National Team Honors for their project, "A Calming & Inclusive Youth Center," in the category of Interior Design Level 2.

**Mrs. Heather Fontana**, who led the Bethel Park delegation, is understandably proud of her group's performance.

"I am extremely proud of these students for their hard work and dedication to Bethel Park FCCLA and I feel very fortunate to serve as their sponsor and adviser," she said.



## Bethel Park Staff Being Trained in Hands-Only CPR

In December, football fans everywhere watched in horror and held their collective breath when Buffalo Bills safety **Damar Hamlin** lay motionless – and for a time, lifeless – at midfield in a terrifying scene at Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium.

Fortunately, that story had a happy ending as Bills assistant athletic trainer **Denny Kellington** performed life-saving CPR on the 24 year-old Pittsburgh native and former Pitt standout, including using an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to bring him back from the brink after an incredible nine minutes.

Inspired by the lifesaving medical attention Hamlin received on the field that night, the NFL has teamed up with Chevron and the American Heart Association to provide free CPR kits and education through an initiative called #3forHeart. Bethel Park is proud to be a part of that effort.

Nurse Facilitator **Mrs. Eileen Wallace** applied for the grant and has led staff training at each elementary school with plans to do more training sessions at the middle and high schools by the year's end.

"It really just comes down to common sense," she said. "The more of our people we can train, the better our chances of saving lives, not only in the school community but the community at large."

Bethel Park's kit features 10 CPR mini-Annies and mannequins on which the staff can practice their technique. Wallace is training them on hands-only adult CPR, conventional CPR on children, AED usage, recognizing choking in children and adults, and how to clear obstructions.



"Emergencies can happen at any time and take many different forms," she said. "Training like this is imperative for our staff so they can recognize some of the emergencies they might face and have a solid understanding of how to respond."

Wallace said hands-only CPR, somewhat different from conventional CPR, first gained popularity during the pandemic, when people feared COVID-19 transmission during rescue breathing. Research has since shown that each method is similarly effective. That's significant because the hands-only approach requires slightly less energy than conventional CPR since you are not delivering rescue breaths. That means you can give the victim life-saving compressions for longer. Hands-only CPR keeps blood flow active and can allow successful resuscitation once trained medical staff arrive on site.

"CPR means you're manually pumping that heart for the individual whose heart has stopped," Wallace said. "When you start pumping the heart with CPR, you're now re-oxygenating the brain, which is essential to the victim's outcome."

According to Wallace, the proper technique should be 100-120 pumps per minute with about two inches of depth per compression.

"Seconds count when there is a cardiac emergency," said Wallace, who lost her father to a cardiac event.

"Somebody's not breathing, every second counts, so it's important to get help on the way and call 9-1-1, but properly performing CPR while you're waiting for the

experts to arrive increases the likelihood of their survival."

## District Partners with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh on New Elementary School

There's nothing quite like the magic of a field trip to spark a student's interest in a particular topic or subject area. Some of our most vivid childhood memories often involve those made during an immersive experience with our classmates and friends at one of Pittsburgh's many excellent museums.

Earlier this year, Bethel Park School District announced an innovative partnership with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP) designed to bring elements of that hands-on museum style experience to Bethel Park's planned new elementary school, set to open in the fall of 2026.

"We want to blend the formal learning experiences that children need with some less traditional, more informal experiences designed to help keep them engaged," said **Anne Fullenkamp**, the CMP's senior director of creative experiences, who is spearheading the project.

Fullenkamp, a trained architect, sees herself as a liaison between the school district and DRAW Collective, the building's primary architects, to make sure that the school is dynamic as well as practical and age-appropriate as well as efficient.

"We're sort of the bridge between the new building and the delivery of instruction," she said. "We're here to make sure that when the architects and builders turn over the keys to Bethel Park, what you're getting is both practical and sustainable."

Fullenkamp is quick to acknowledge that DRAW Collective has an excellent reputation and she has no doubt it will do an excellent job of creating a perfectly well-designed school. Still, she maintains that architects and educators speak two entirely different languages, which can lead to miscommunication.

"My job, as someone who has spent a lot of time in both worlds, is almost like that of a translator to make sure that all of the key stakeholders remain on the same page and everyone gets exactly what they want," she said. "When a community is making a massive investment like building an elementary school, the very last thing you want to have is for anyone to have buyer's remorse."

This is not CMP's first project of this nature. According to Fullenkamp, CMP has been working with area schools on ways to bring a more immersive experience to their new facilities since 2004. The Pittsburgh Public Schools still have two classrooms inside the Children's Museum's North Side location.

That program was so successful that in 2012, CMP decided to make partnering with area schools a part of its mission. The group has worked with a number of area schools to create stunning makerspaces, including at Hampton Township School District and Mt. Lebanon School District.

In November, Seneca Valley School District opened the spectacular 1,400 student, 200,000 sq. ft. Ehrman Crest Elementary and Middle School, which is also an innovative blend of children's museum and classroom building. That project has earned rave reviews from residents and the academic community alike. The Smithsonian Magazine recently pondered, "Is This Elementary School Near Pittsburgh the Future of Education?" Time magazine declared Seneca Valley's state-of-the-art new facility one of the "Best Inventions of 2022."

Now, many of the same people responsible for bringing some of those cutting-edge innovations to Ehrman Crest and the others will be bringing similar expertise and first-hand experience to Bethel Park.

Superintendent, **Dr. James Walsh** has been extremely impressed by the entire experience. "Anne and her team have done a magnificent job of taking our muddled ideas and growing them into a very accessible reality," he said. "She is connecting us to our dreams in a very practical way."

Fullenkamp insists that the key to any new facility is to create as many dynamic learning spaces as possible within the new facility.

"There are going to be unanticipated challenges and as the years go by, the students' educational needs will undoubtedly continue to change," said Fullenkamp. "That is why the new building must be flexible and practical so that it can adapt and keep pace with a continually evolving landscape."



## Kids Pick Program Still Going Strong

Bethel Park Library Youth Services Department Head **Elaine Volpe** has been asking children what they like to read for a long time.

"We are always looking for ways to engage kids on their terms," she said. "Whether they are already enthusiastic about books or more reluctant readers, we are constantly searching for new ways to reach them and spark their interest in reading."

For the past decade, part of that engagement has come in the form of the Kids Pick Program, a unique partnership between the community library and the district's elementary school librarians that introduces elementary-aged students to a variety of titles and styles and allows them to choose their favorites.

Each month, public library representatives visit each of the elementary schools to read students a new picture book. They discuss the story with the students and provide a follow-up activity for them to take home in the hope that they'll remember the story, its characters and its lessons.

At the end of the school year, the children review all of the books they've read throughout the year and vote for their favorite book by secret ballot.

The winning title, based on a cumulative vote from all five elementary schools, will be announced at a special celebratory event at the end of the year.

Last year's winners were "A Pizza with Everything On It," by **Kyle Scheele** (first grade) and "Chez Bob," by **Bob Shea** (second grade).

This year's candidates include:

### First Grade:

- "Elephant Island," by Leo Timmers
- "Howard the Average Gecko," by Wendy Meddour
- "Tomorrow is a Brand-New Day," by Davina Bell
- "How to Party Like a Snail," by Naseem Hrab
- "How to Draw a Happy Cat," by Ethan T. Berlin
- "Scrap Metal Swan," by Joanne Linden

### Second Grade:

- "Take a Breath," by Sujean Rim
- "Skater Cielo," by Rachel Katstaller
- "I'm Not Scared, You're Scared," by Seth Meyers
- "Snow Horses," by Patricia MacLachlan
- "Pizza! A Slice of History," by Greg Pizzoli
- "American Desi," by Jyoti Rajan Gopal

According to Washington Elementary School Librarian **Mrs. Rebecca Minella**, the goal of Kids Pick is to instill in children a love for books and engage them in rich discussion about the story and its illustrations.

"The secret to Kids Pick is that it gives the students ownership over the choices," she said. "That allows them to connect with reading, and by extension, our public and school libraries through the material they've chosen."



## Loeffert Wins Jersey Design Competition

In the spring, the Washington Wild Things announced they had chosen a submission from Neil Armstrong Middle School Fifth Grader **Aria Loeffert** as the winner of the team's student design-our-jersey contest. Loeffert's design was one of more than 1,000 such submissions from elementary and middle school-aged students from throughout the region.

On Saturday, Aug. 5, the team will wear the Loeffert-designed jersey, and the first 1000 fans will take home a special Jersey Rally Towel courtesy of McClelland's Contracting And Roofing. Loeffert will also throw out the first pitch!



## Procedures for Administering Medication at School

Parents and guardians should ask the doctor to schedule medication doses other than during school hours. When this is not possible, the school will cooperate with parents/guardians to see that the medication is given as prescribed.

Suppose your student needs to have medications (*prescription or over-the-counter*) administered at school. In that case, the following criteria must be met:

- A physician order includes a signature from the physician and the parent or guardian.
- All prescription medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container that must include the name and phone number of the pharmacy, the name of the student, the physician's name, the name of the medication, the currently prescribed dose, the time of administration, and the RX number.
- All "over-the-counter" medications must be in the original manufacturer's container with the student's name written on the container.
- Prescription medication in a pharmacy label container dated within the last two weeks and to be administered for **NO MORE THAN 10 SCHOOL DAYS** required a parents/guardian's signature and a completed medication form.
- Medication prescribed for longer than two weeks also requires a physician's signature.
- Only a 30-day supply of medication will be accepted.

**All medications must be dropped at the health office by a parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will also have to count the medications with the nurse.**

## Bethel Park Day at Kennywood June 16

Bethel Park School District's 2023 Kennywood Day will be held on Friday, June 16. This year's tickets will be sold exclusively online through Kennywood. No tickets will be sold at any Bethel Park school.

Guests can purchase an Event Day Online Park Admission Pass for \$35.99 (*plus fees*), or if you're unsure you can make it on June 16, you could also opt for the Flexible Date Online Park Admission Pass for \$38.99 (*plus fees*). That guarantees you admission on any date through June 30.

## 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](mailto:cromie.james@bphawks.org).

- Please put *Email Newsletter* in the subject line



## BPHS Welcomes Latest NHS Class

The Bethel Park High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 90 new members, including three seniors, 19 juniors and 68 sophomores at a ceremony held on Tuesday, March 28, in the Bethel Park High School Auditorium.

To be eligible for induction, students had to have a 3.85 cumulative GPA, perform at least 35 hours of community service over one year before induction, demonstrate leadership, and submit a letter of recommendation from Bethel Park High School faculty. Applicants were also asked to write an essay detailing how they have demonstrated leadership in the community over the past year, which the NHS Faculty Council reviewed.

Seniors **Dylan Finnell**, **Cody Hendrych-Bondra** and **Maddie Kanagy** participated in the Induction Ceremony.

The junior class inductees included **Maggie Booth**, **Belinda Bova**, **Artemis Conaboy**, **Elle Duda**, **Kaden Flambard**, **Gabby Gealey**, **Riswanth Haris Sundaresh Babu**, **Julia Hoppe**, **Ethan Jones**, **Jacob Kalogeris**, **Julia Lepri**, **Joshua Lubawy**, **Brandon Mason**, **Clara McGough**, **Julia Miller**, **Justin Muench**, **Elise Perez**, **Noah Stiglich** and **Chan Yoon**.

Sophomores **Cameron Bonacci**, **Jack Bruckner**, **Layton Cameron**, **Audrey Campbell**, **Owen Campbell**, **Rocco Capozzoli**, **Maria Catana**, **Isabella Cieply**, **Devin Collier**, **Katherine Connell**, **Mackenzie Conway**, **Madelyn Cummings**, **Luca DeMartino**, **Joseph DePasquale**, **Nina DePasquale**, **Martin Devine**, **Subbari Dhandapani**, **Charlize Donaldson**, **Carly Dowell**, **Sydney Felicetti**, **Sydney Franzmann**, **Jackson Friday**, **Megan Geraud**, **Julia Gobbie**, **Alyssa Headley**, **Lucy Heckla**, **Aaron Hofbauer**, **Jesse Huber**, **Madelyn Hughes**, **Emma Impellicceiri**, **Sara Impellicceiri**, **Sophia Iorio**, **Nicholas Krastev**, **Zachary Kucharik**, **Mallory Kuntz**, **Amelia Lancet**, **Max LeMessurier**, **Isabella Lybarger**, **Isabella Markwood**, **Kamiya Martin**, **Kayla Matvey**, **Brady McKiernan**, **Keira Mehalko**, **Ella Milliken**, **Hannah Molli**, **Frank O'Mara**, **Finn O'Neill**, **Clancy Orié**, **Sadie Orié**, **Ashley Perich**, **Tanner Pfeuffer**, **Julia Pierson**, **Ella Sabanovic**, **Ella Sabatos**, **Cassidy Schwartz**, **Trey Slavonic**, **Alyvia Sohyda**, **Caleb Steele**, **Cassidy Sullivan**, **Kalina Tierney**, **Haley Uselman**, **Cameron Wallace**, **Lyla Walsh**, **Sara Walters**, **Kristen Weiss**, **Molly Welch**, **Katelyn Wolf** and **Jingyuan Zhang** were also inducted.

Speaking on the four pillars of the National Honor Society were seniors **Eva Blatz**, who spoke on Character; **Henry Gaston**, Scholarship; **Jeon Varghese**, Leadership; and **Cassie Robinson**, Service.

The 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony immediately preceded the induction ceremony. The honorees included **Sgt. Charles Bonczek '63 (posthumous)**, **Dr. Robert S. Detrick Jr. '67**, **Dr. Michael A. Dobos '71**, **Kathleen Melucci '84** and **Bob Waggoner '69**. They each shared a few brief words of wisdom and encouragement with the students and spoke a little bit about their respective journeys.

Bethel Park High School Principal **Mr. Joseph Villani** said the two events are naturally entwined, which is why he considers these events among the most important on the academic calendar.

"Tonight, as we celebrate the journeys of the alumni who came before you and who have already blazed their paths, and as you begin to embark on your journey, know that we are very proud to welcome you to this year's induction class and we have no doubt that a bright future awaits you because you too exemplify what makes Bethel Park such a special place to live and learn," he said.

Bethel Park High School science teacher **Mr. Sean O'Brien** is the faculty advisor to the National Honor Society.



## Bethel Park Schools Celebrate Women's History Month

March was Women's History Month — an opportunity to honor and celebrate the often overlooked contributions of women to art, government, technology, culture, and society. This month-long event has been celebrated annually since 1987 and is a chance to learn more about the vital contributions that women have made in creating a shared American history. Bethel Park School District was very proud to participate in the annual month-long celebration through a series of initiatives:

- Bethel Park Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh** recorded a special message for the women of Bethel Park, past, present and future.
- Students in **Mrs. Melissa Toth's** and **Mrs. Jenine Wessel's** class at Washington Elementary led an informative reading activity centering around the celebration.
- Students at Lincoln Elementary honed their research skills that include influential women.
- Students in **Mr. Douglas Fink's** class studied the life of **Dolley Madison** for Women's History Month. Dolley, the wife of the fourth American President, **James Madison**, helped shape the First Lady's role. She would prove to be a role model for future generations.
- **Ms. Kelly Eckert-Graffam's** fourth grade students recently created wood sculptures based on the sculpture of artist **Louise Nevelson**.
- Students at Penn and Lincoln created some exciting artwork based on the works of **Georgia O'Keeffe**, an influential artist.
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School students learned about Women's History Month with many good read-aloud texts and facts about influential women in history.

## Bethel Park Advances in Quiz Show Competition

The Bethel Park team of seniors **Jeon Varghese**, **Jesse Lester** and junior **Grace Skalniak** have advanced to the semifinals of KDKA-TV's long-running high school quiz show, High Q.

The Bethel Park students outdueled their counterparts from Connellsville Area and Homer-Center in the opening round in November. In the quarterfinals, which aired in April, Bethel Park defeated teams from Apollo-Ridge and New Castle Area.

Varghese, the team's captain, says he and his teammates

have enjoyed their experience so far. "It feels surreal being part of a program I watched when I was younger, so this is a full-circle moment for me," he said.

The semifinals will be

contested in May, but at press time, Bethel Park's date, time slot and the opponent had not been determined. Now in its 24th year, the show featured student teams of three from 81 local high schools competing by answering questions from host **Ray Petelin** on various curriculum areas. The show airs each Saturday at 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



(l-r): Jesse Lester, Jeon Varghese and Grace Skalniak

## Villani Recognized by the Penguins



Bethel Park High School Principal Mr. **Joseph Villani** was among 15 area principals recognized as a Pittsburgh Penguins MVP (*Most Valuable Principal*) for their outstanding academic leadership.

Villani and his fellow winners were selected from more than 100 principal nominations to be honored by the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Gable Foundation and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit which noted in its release, "This prestigious distinction is a testament to their innovative approach in building capacity related to teaching and learning, continuous drive for excellence and passion for creating successful systems for all learners to thrive and grow."

The Penguins honored Villani and his wife, **Shannon**, with suite tickets to their March 14 game vs. the Montreal Canadiens. He also received a customized Penguins sweater and a \$1000 donation to the school.

## Bethel Park Unified Indoor Bocce Team Finishes in the Top Ten

One of two teams from Bethel Park High School took ninth place at the Three Rivers Regional Unified Bocce Tournament held at Metheny Fieldhouse at Geneva College in March.

Bethel Park Team 1 - composed of seniors **Lauren Heh**, **Charlie Metzler** and **Gianna Rich**; junior **Leah Mafrici**; and sophomores **Julie Gobbie** and **Olivia Kitchen** - won the South Division Championship at Baldwin High School. They would go on to finish ninth out of 89 regional teams - a remarkable achievement for a program in just its first year of existence.

The school also held a pep rally for the team before its Feb. 9 match against Upper St. Clair. The student body came out for the event and the match that followed in full throat to cheer on their classmates of all ability levels.

High School Principal **Mr. Joseph Villani** also serves as the team's head coach. Villani said he couldn't be more proud of his team and all it accomplished this year. "We were just proud to have a team, let alone a division champion," he said. "We have been working towards this goal since before the start of the pandemic, and for it to finally happen and for our entire student body to respond to it as well as it did, it just makes me very proud to be a part of this team, this school, and this community."

In coed Unified Indoor Bocce, teams compete on 60 x 12' courts, rolling their rubber bocce ball underhand on the PVC court in hopes of getting closer to the jack (*a smaller ball which serves as a target and is sometimes referred to as a "pallino"*) than their opponents. It is part of the Unified Sports Program (UCS) of the Special Olympics, which promotes social inclusion through shared training and competition for people with and without intellectual disabilities.

According to **Mike Bovino**, Senior Advisor for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, the waiting list to join the fully-inclusive Special Olympics PA Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program is, "rather lengthy and growing." Special Olympics of Pennsylvania is currently working with 91 schools in 12 counties, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh to provide competition for Indoor Bocce, Track and Field and Soccer

Bethel Park fielded two teams of eight boys and girls and welcomed all students in grades 9-12 with intellectual and developmental disabilities (*including autism*) who are taking classes at Bethel Park High School.

The other Bethel Park's Bocce Team members were senior **Draven Kennedy**; juniors **Logan Burke**, **Alyssa Headley**, **Julia Miller** and **Bennet Nelis**; and sophomore **Molly Mathias**.



(l-r): Julie Gobbie, Anthony Piscioneri (Asst. Coach), Leah Mafrici, Charlie Metzler, Gianna Rich, Lauren Heh, Olivia Kitchen and Joseph Villani (Head Coach)

## BPBS Excels at 2023 DECA State Career Development Conference

One hundred and two BPBS DECA members competed at the 2023 PA DECA State Conference, Feb. 22-24 in Hershey. Bethel Park had 37 finalists and three medallion winners. Thirty-six students qualified to participate in Orlando's DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in April.



(l-r): Merris Gable and Meghan Krapp

### State Officers:

- **Lexi Dorfner** (*Grade 11*) was installed as a 2023-2024 PA DECA State Vice President.
- **Arabella Cicero** (*11*) was installed as the 2023-2024 PA DECA District III Representative.

### Scholarships:

- **Dom DePasquale** (*12*) received the \$1,000 PA DECA Member of the Year Scholarship
  - **Martina Tatalias** (*12*) received the \$500 PA DECA Scholarship
- 1st Place Winners:
- **Lexie Beck** (*12*), **Mia Coccagno** (*12*) and **Natalie Engel** (*12*): Hospitality & Tourism Operations Research
  - **Dom DePasquale**, **Grace Demira** (*12*) and **Jackson Molli** (*12*): Sales Project

### 2nd Place Winners:

- **Emily Ashton** (*12*), **Leah Hartman** (*12*) and **Tatalias** (*12*): Business Solutions Project
- **Emma Bianco** (*10*), **Audrey Campbell** (*10*) and **Nina DePasquale** (*12*): Business Services Operations Research
- **Tommy Bova** (*11*), **Tim Jones** (*12*) and **Trey Tygart** (*11*): Innovation Plan
- **Merris Gable** (*12*) and **Meghan Krapp** (*12*): Community Awareness Project
- **Jack Hartman** (*12*), **Mason Miller** (*12*) and **Owen Sivetz** (*12*): Financial Literacy Promotion Project
- **Clancy Ori** (*10*) and **Brady Remington** (*11*): Franchise Business Plan

### 3rd Place Winners:

- **Emma Bucheli** (*12*) and **Marena Chemicky** (*12*): Career Development Project
- **Mitchell Gram** (*12*), **Jack Kohnfelder** (*12*) and **Andrew Kvak** (*12*): Sports & Entertainment Operations Research
- **Abigail Goldenberg** (*10*) and **Addison Hill** (*12*): Community Giving Project
- **Cecilia Romary** (*9*) and **Danielle Whitaker** (*9*): Innovation Plan

### 4th Place Winners:

- **Josh Clunan** (*12*) and **Nolan Plassio** (*12*): Community Awareness Project
- **Nick Johnson** (*11*) and **Nina Romary** (*11*): Integrated Marketing Campaign - Service
- **Mira Weston** (*12*): Financial Operations Research
- **Marquise Armstrong-Ross** (*12*): Modeling\*

### Medallion Winners (Earned one of the top 3 scores in their event for their Test, Role Play A and/or Role Play B):

- **Armstrong-Ross** - Top 3 Test Score: Business Services Marketing
- **Mallory Kuntz** (*10*) - Top 3 Role Play B: Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
- **Ashley Perich** (*10*) - Top 3 Role Play B: Hotel & Lodging Management

\*This is a State Event that does not qualify for ICDC.

# Bethel Park Alumni Hall of Fame Welcomes Five New Members

Bethel Park High School held its annual Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in late March by welcoming in five new members including an accomplished musician and a former law enforcement official, NFL official, oceanographer and dentist.

**Sergeant Charles Bonczek '63** pursued a career in law enforcement with the Bethel Park Police Department, where his passion to serve the community grew exponentially. He could be found serving overtime at football games, Bethel Bakery or Mall traffic duty. He devoted his time to the elementary schools as a Police Pal and also instructing the Police Citizens Academy. He had strong roots in Bethel Park, and was steadfast in protecting and serving the members of the community. His heart bled black and orange for his 39 years of service and every single moment in retirement until his 2006 passing.

**Bob Waggoner '69** spent two decades as an NFL official, working in Super Bowls XL, LIX and many playoff assignments. He was heavily involved with college lacrosse, having worked the 2004 NCAA D-1 finals. Waggoner served over 30 years as a probation officer with the Toledo Municipal Court where he supervised community service programs. He served as the associate supervisor of officials which includes the Big Ten Conference, Mid-American Conference, and Missouri Valley Conference. He is an active contributor and wish granter for the Make a Wish Foundation.

**Dr. Robert S. Detrick Jr. '67** graduated summa cum laude from Lehigh University, earned a MS from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and a PhD in marine geophysics from MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Later, he headed the Earth Sciences Division at NSF and later NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. He became president of a consortium of universities supporting seismological research and participated in over 30 shipboard research expeditions and authored or co-authored over 100 publications. He is also the recipient of the A.G. Huntsman Award for Excellence in the Marine Sciences.

**Dr. Michael A. Dobos '71** graduated from IUP and Pitt Dental School, returning to Bethel Park to open his dental practice. He served as a member and officer with the Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation, Bethel Baseball Association, Hockey Boosters, and the Home Rule Charter Review Committee. He worked at Pitt Dental School as an assistant professor and chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry. He has been awarded a fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry and induction into Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental Society.

**Kathleen Melucci '84** earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Mannes College of Music. She is an active chamber musician, clinician, and educator. She is a member of the Artistic Staff at the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestras (*where she joined at age 10*), Youth Chamber Connection. She holds the Principal Cello positions with the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh, and maintains a private cello studio. A committed Suzuki teacher, she has taught students ages 2 - 70, believing passionately in the importance of music.

The Bethel Park Alumni Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 to recognize and honor Bethel Park High School alumni who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments either personally or professionally since graduation.

Honorees are selected because they either significantly improved the lives of others, contributed significant volunteer or community service, or achieved significant advancement in their professional field.

"We are always excited to welcome back our distinguished alumni and recognize them for all they have accomplished," said Bethel Park High School principal, **Joseph Villani**. "This group of Alumni Hall of Fame inductees represent the best in character, charity and accomplishments in both their personal and professional lives; and they embody our recently adopted school motto of, 'Built on tradition, focused on the future.'"

The annual Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is held in conjunction with the National Honor Society's (NHS) induction ceremony with the honorees offering words of advice to their younger counterparts.



Stand-ins: (l-r) Joe Lodge, Stephanie Glover and Heather Milharic; and honorees Bob Waggoner and Dr. Michael A. Dobos

"We pair this program with the NHS induction ceremony because the qualifications for each so closely align," said Villani. "It is an incredible opportunity for our current students to hear directly from those who preceded them as they reflect on what qualities it took for them to reach their goals. It is really special because the alumni have sat in the same seats and come from the same community."

The inductees were each presented with a copy of the plaques now on display in the lobby, as well as a Great Alumni Hall of Fame medal and pin.

More information on the Alumni Hall of Fame, and how you can nominate a candidate, can be found on the district's website. Nominations are always due by Nov. 1.

## Westhoff Hired by Denver Broncos as Assistant Head Coach

New Denver Broncos coach **Sean Payton** has hired long-time NFL Assistant/Special Teams Coach **Mike Westhoff** as the team's assistant head coach.

Westhoff, 75, will oversee the Broncos' special teams, with **Ben Kotwica** hired as special teams coordinator. Westhoff and Kotwica worked together on the New York Jets' staff from 2009 to 2012 under coach **Rex Ryan**.

The 1965 Bethel Park High School alumnus has extensive major college and NFL coaching experience, having previously overseen the special teams for the Jets, Indianapolis Colts, Miami Dolphins, and New Orleans Saints, where he previously worked under Payton for two seasons (2017-2018).

Westhoff, a cancer survivor, has long been among the league's most respected - and colorful -- special teams coaches. Last year, he released a memoir, "Figure It Out," that included his journey as an NFL coach.



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## Bethel Park's Bonaccorsi Wins NCAA Wrestling Title

**Nino Bonaccorsi**, a 197-pound Bethel Park graduate '17, became Pitt's first NCAA wrestling champion in 15 years in March with a dramatic 5-3 come-from-behind win over South Dakota State's Tanner Sloan at the jam-packed 16,855-seat BOK Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Bonaccorsi (21-0), who entered the tournament as the top seed in his weight class, scored five wins in three days. In the final, he fell behind 3-0 after being taken down in the first period. The hard-working and aggressive grappler continued to attack, eventually working back for the two-point win. He had a takedown and rideout in the second period and another takedown in the third.

"Nothing changes, I kept wrestling my whole match," Bonaccorsi said about his early deficit. "I knew it was going to be ugly. I had to get there and just wrestle my style and get the victory."

With the win, the redshirt senior became just the eighth Pitt wrestler to finish a season undefeated.

"I've been dreaming of this moment since I was an 8-year-old kid," gushed Bonaccorsi with a still blood-filled mouth to ESPN's **Quint Kessenich** immediately after the match. "I just kept wrestling. I knew it was going to be ugly, but I came away with the victory. **Coach (Keith) Gavin** knew how much I wanted this. We put so much work into this – physically, mentally, everything. I couldn't have done it without him. I can't believe it. This is amazing."

When Kessenich reassured Bonaccorsi that his victory wasn't that ugly, Bonaccorsi disagreed. "It was a little ugly," he laughed.

The redshirt senior became Pitt's 17th national champion and the first Panther wrestler to win a national title since **Keith Gavin**, the team's current head coach, in 2008. He was also named the ACC's Co-Wrestler of the Year and was a finalist for the Dan Hodge Award, college wrestling's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

The Bethel Park to Pitt pipeline is a family tradition for the Bonaccorsi. Nino's father, **Mark '79**, and his brother **Nick '11** also wrestled at Bethel Park and Pitt.

"I couldn't have done this without my family," Bonaccorsi told reporters after the match. "My dad was my coach when I started wrestling. I remember him teaching me how to hit a single-leg (*takedown*), and I hit a single-leg to win the title. It came full circle tonight. He's my best friend. I couldn't have done this without his support."

Bonaccorsi, the 2021 national runner-up, joins **Joseph Maciejczyk '77** (*LSU, Track & Field, 1978-81*) as Bethel Park's only multiple-time Division I All-Americans. Other Hawks who have gone on to earn Division I All-American honors include **Michael Shurko '67** (*Pitt, Track & Field, 1971*), **Glen Dubis '76** (*Penn State, Rifle, 1981*), **Decia Agnew '86** (*Minnesota, Track & Field, 1991*), and **Melanie Wirtner '87** (*Nebraska, Swimming, 1991*).



## IMS's Spalaris to Retire

Independence Middle School Assistant Principal **Dr. George Spalaris** will retire at the end of the school year after nearly a quarter century with Bethel Park School District.

Spalaris, 55, of Canonsburg, said it was time for a new challenge. "I have loved every minute of my time at Bethel Park, but I'm ready to see what retirement holds," he said.

Spalaris's retirement will take effect on June 30.

The district has begun interviewing candidates for his assistant principal's role, said **Racquel Sutton**, the school's principal.

"We hope to fill that position by the end of the school year, but it's more important that we find the right person than to meet any specific timelines," she said.

She said replacing everything Spalaris brings to his job will be impossible regardless of who Bethel Park hires.

"George is very detailed and analytical, and he has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the school district and community," said Sutton. "How do you replace that?"

According to Sutton, Spalaris's personality will be most difficult to replace. "He just gets along really well with our students and we're all going to miss him personally and professionally."

Spalaris has been an administrator at Bethel Park since 1999, primarily as assistant principal at Independence Middle School. Before Bethel Park, Spalaris taught English and social studies before electing to go into administration, first in Delaware, before finally returning home to his native Pittsburgh.

Spalaris said that while eager for his next life phase, he will miss his Bethel Park family.

"Success to any degree is all about relationships, and I've had the good fortune of building countless relationships throughout the community," he said. "That reciprocal relationship has been extraordinary, and I will always cherish it."

Spalaris said he's most proud of the relationships he has developed with students over the years.

"One of the most amazing privileges of working in education is the opportunity to impact young people's lives positively," he said. "It's humbling to sit back and think about that impact, but it was always a responsibility I took very seriously."

Spalaris said he has no specific retirement plans, but he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Helen. He may also resume his role as an associate professor at the college level.



## Hertzel Places Second in Statewide Speech and Debate Competition

For the second consecutive year, **Lucas Hertzel**, a Bethel Park High School junior who competes on the school's speech and debate team, took second place in the PHSSL (*Pennsylvania High School Speech League*) state competition in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate event held at Bloomsburg University in March.

Lincoln-Douglas debate (*more commonly referred to as LD*) is a competitive speaking activity involving two debaters arguing for and against a resolution selected by the NFL (*National Forensics League*) and voted on by coaches. The format is meant to honor the famous debate series between **Abraham Lincoln** and **Stephen Douglas** in the run-up to the 1858 Illinois Senate Race.

Although the exact format of the debates was slightly different than the Lincoln-Douglas of today (*back then, the first speaker spoke for 60 minutes, the second had a 90-minute rebuttal, and then the first speaker had a 30-minute rebuttal/time for closing arguments*), the adversarial nature of the debates was similar.

Today, like the old debates, LD focuses on the conflicting values of social and philosophical issues, for example, by examining questions of morality, justice, democracy, etc. Typically, LD debates concern themselves with deciding whether or not specific actions or states of affairs are good or bad, right or wrong, moral or immoral.

This year's in-person competition was different from last year's online event. According to Hertzel, that made for a better experience all the way around.

"Everything was virtual and pretty impersonal last year," he said. "This year, with it being a live in-person event, there was much more talking between rounds, and it was more interactive and fun."

"The entire event just felt more official."

Hertzel's topic, as determined by the National Speech & Debate Association, was to resolve whether Supreme Court justices should be subject to term limits. For the next two days, he competed in approximately 11 grueling rounds against some of the brightest young minds in the state, arguing for and against that proposition. That comes after months of study and preparation. He estimates that he had to argue for term limits six times and against them the other five times.

When the competition is over, win or lose, the first emotion is almost always a sense of relief.

"Competing in an event like this requires a ton of preparation, and your mental focus has to be razor-sharp during the debate," he said. "Once the debate starts, there's really not much room to think about anything else."

"I'm pretty tired when they're over."

**Mrs. Christine Firek**, the team's coach, is understandably proud of her young pupil.

"Watching Lucas perform at these competitions is amazing because he has incredible recall abilities, and he enjoys the philosophical component of the argument," she said "When you combine that with his natural poise and command of the subject matter, he is a very talented competitor."

While Hertzel did allow that finishing second in the state two years in a row was disappointing, he remains grateful for his experience. "There's no denying that it was disappointing to come up just short of my goal two years in a row," he said. "But I am proud to have made it as far as I did in back-to-back years, and if I make a few changes to how I approach my arguments, hopefully, next year, I can take that final step."

**Olivia Lowry**, a junior at Dallastown Area High School, took first place in this year's competition.



Lucas Hertzel

## BPBS AP German Students Recognized for Performance on the 2023 AATG National German Exam

Bethel Park High School Honors and AP German students earned two Gold Awards, two Silver Awards, and two Bronze Awards on the 2023 AATG National German Exam. Six additional students were commended for their achievements with honorable mention.



On the Level 4 exam, senior **Cody Hendrych-Bondra** (*AP German*) and junior **Lucas Hertzel** (*Honors German IV*) were among just seven students in Western PA and West Virginia who earned Gold Awards (*90th percentile or higher nationally*). Junior **Brandon Mason** (*Honors German IV*) ranked among the 12 Western PA and West Virginia students who earned a Silver Award (*80th percentile or higher nationally*). Senior **Carter Kicinski** (*AP German*) was among the 22 Western PA and West Virginia students who earned a Bronze Award (*70th percentile or higher nationally*).

The Gold Award winners can now apply for the AATG/PAD National German Exam Scholarship to travel and study in Germany this summer.

On the Level 3 exam, sophomore **Brady McKiernan** (*Honors German III*) was one of only nine students in Western PA and West Virginia who earned a Silver Award, and sophomore **Katelyn Wolf** (*Honors German III*) was among the 13 students who earned a Bronze Award.

The AATG also recognized six BPBS German students with an honorable mention for their achievements. On the Level 4 exam, senior AP German students **Jason Turske** and **Mira Weston**, as did junior Honors German IV students **Jacob Kalogeris** and **Parker Nelson**, received a commendation. On the Level 3 exam, Honors German III students **Jacob George** (*sophomore*) and **Chloe Gorman** (*junior*) were recognized.

## BPBS Excels at AATG Three Rivers German Day



Honors and AP German students from Bethel Park High School earned four 1st place, two 2nd place and one 3rd place award at the 2023 AATG Three Rivers German Day Competition at Washington & Jefferson College on March 14.

Senior **Jason Turske** earned first place in the Poetry Recitation category for the second straight year with his recitation of the poem "Wie freu' ich mich der Sommerwonne" by **Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben**. Junior **Jacob Kalogeris** took first prize in the Fiction Writing category with his original German short story, and sophomore **Nathan Disori** placed first in the Poetry Writing category with his original German poem. Junior **Chloe Gorman** earned first place in the Folkloric Arts and Crafts category for her handmade, '70's-inspired **Bavarian Dirndl** with matching pants.

Turske and Kalogeris, freshmen **Sadie Nelson** and **John Busalacchi**, sophomore **Cameron Wallace** and juniors **Parker Nelson** and **Jack Edner** placed second in the Musical Performance category with their acoustic rendition of the German rock song "Mach die Augen zu." Junior **Lucas Hertzel** also placed second in the Non-Fiction Writing category.

Bethel Park's team also finished third in the Culture Bowl. Senior **Cody Hendrych-Bondra**

captained the team, including Hertzel, Disori, and Busalacchi.

Bethel Park's seven awards were the most of the 15 schools in attendance.

# Teen Screen Provides Holocaust-Related Short Films for BPHS Students



In March, 135 Bethel Park High School students in English 10 and English 10 Honors visited the Century Square Luxury Cinemas in West Mifflin, where they watched a series of Holocaust-related short films.

The films were provided to the students free of charge by Film Pittsburgh as part of its Teen Screen initiative, which focuses on using film to teach young people to respect and appreciate humanity.

According to **Lori Sisson**, the program's director, Teen Screen provides a free educational experience that facilitates the exploration of significant, often difficult, topics – like the Holocaust – through film.

"We want to introduce students to different cultures and historical events to teach them how to use their voice and stand up for what they know is right," she said.

By incorporating a variety of teaching approaches into an interactive cinematic experience, Teen Screen speaks to students of all backgrounds and learning styles. The program of short films the students saw was curated to introduce them to lesser-known Holocaust stories as well as international films and different filmmaking techniques. The selections included documentary, narrative, and animated movies. Sisson estimates that nearly 20,000 students in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and beyond have benefitted from a Teen Screen event this year.

High School English teacher **Mrs. Chelsea Casagranda** believes that programs like Teen Screen help to broaden her students' knowledge of the Holocaust by comparing the texts they had already read in class with the short films they saw in the theater.

"The short film format keeps students of the 'Tik Tok generation' engaged and the varying genres and topics provide something of interest for everyone," she said. "Film is also an immersive experience. Students are engaged through both sight and sound, and these shorts explore the profound effect both sound and silence can have on the viewer."

The Bethel Park students in attendance had at least some understanding of the Holocaust before seeing the short films. They had previously read and discussed several stories, including "Maus and Night," a graphic novel that juxtaposes the harsh realities of the author's parents' experiences as Polish Jews during the Nazi Occupation with the strained relationship between father and son as the latter writes his memoir.

"One realization I've gleaned from teaching the Holocaust for the past 14 years is that while students seem to have frequent exposure to Holocaust texts and facts, they often fail to understand how this event informs the future; and that despite the rallying cry of "Never Again," post WWII, genocide has continued to happen again and again," she said.

The Holocaust shorts provided by Teen Screen gave the students additional fodder for comparison, both in genre and story. Students had the opportunity to consider the thematic similarities between the texts they read in class and the short films. They were also able to examine universal themes like the power of one person to make a change, coping with adversity, response to evil, and survival, explored by both the classroom texts and the short films.

## 'The Addams Family' was Spookily Delightful

Earlier this spring, Bethel Park High School staged a musical that was a little creepy and kooky, mysterious and spooky, and altogether ooky, when it presented "The Addams Family."

In the upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams.

Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges any other family faces and the spookiest nightmare every family faces: the Addams children are growing up!

The Addamses have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years, and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. However, their dark, macabre, beloved daughter Wednesday is now a young woman ready for her own life. She has fallen in love with **Lucas Beineke**, a sweet, smart boy from a typical, respectable Ohio family – the most un-Addams-sounding person one could be!

And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change.

**Todd Kuczawa**, the show's producer and vocal director, said he chose "The Addams Family" because it was time for a true comedy and how well it suited his students.

"We like to alternate genres from year-to-year just to keep the students engaged," he said. "Last year was 'Cinderella,' which is a

Rodgers and Hammerstein production. Those shows are amazing, but after you do a show like that, it's important to mix it up and come up with something a little less traditional."

"This show was kooky...and a lot of fun."

Another benefit of "The Addams Family," according to Kuczawa, was that it was nostalgic for older audiences and timely for younger performance goers.

"Netflix has a show called 'Wednesday,' and many of our students have seen it and instantly understood the premise of this show very well," he said. "It is also very dark, adding to the students' fun."

The chorus and ensemble parts played deceased ancestors of the Addams Family, and they helped guide the family through their struggles.

"The show was hilarious and silly, but it also has some timeless and wonderful messages for the audience," said Kuczawa.

As has long been the case at Bethel Park, "The Addams Family"

had two casts. Junior **Noah Stiglich** and senior **Nick Dell** each played Gomez Addams. Juniors **Clara McGough** and **Alea Taylor** were his beautiful wife, Morticia. Seniors **Anthony Hughes** and **Dylan Finnell** played Uncle Fester. Wednesday Addams was portrayed by junior **Meghan DeHaven** and senior **Elizabeth Robinson**, respectively.

The dance captains were seniors **Alayna Banks** and **Aubrey Manion**, while the student directors were seniors **AnnaMarie Lorenzi** and **Natalie Sager**.



## Washington Elementary's Green Team Hosts Metal Recycling Event

Earlier this spring, Bethel Park residents had the opportunity to clear out their garages and other storage spaces and help the planet simultaneously as part of Washington Elementary School's first-ever metal recycling event.

For three hours on March 25, dozens of vehicles stopped by the school's parking lot to unload various metal items from hangers to cans to door knobs and pots and pans. They also unloaded trucks full of car parts, washing machines, grills, and even tent poles.

The event was the brainchild of Washington Elementary School Third Grade teacher **Mrs. Tammy Williams**, who, along with school librarian **Mrs. Rebecca Minella**, enthusiastically leads the school's Green Team, which regularly sponsors environmentally friendly activities, including leading the school's recycling efforts.

"I have always been interested in finding ways to preserve our environment, and the WE Green Team is a perfect way to do that," said Williams. "I can't think of anything more important to teach our children than ways to preserve our planet."

According to Williams, who regularly recycles plastics, papers, and cardboard boxes at the school, the idea for the metal recycling drive came organically during one of the Green Team's bi-weekly meetings. "Metal can be recycled forever," said Williams. "I think that part has been lost, so we wanted to bring that back to the forefront of peoples' minds."



The veteran teacher was thrilled with the community's response to the metal recycling drive, which resulted from a partnership between the school and the Municipality of Bethel Park, Vericheck Technical Services, Michael Brothers Hauling and Recycling, and Scrap University.

"The community's response was amazing," said Williams. "So many people came out to contribute to the cause, and everyone seemed so happy and appreciative. That was a gratifying feeling." Williams's Green Team partner, Minella, acknowledged that at first she worried about hosting an event of that scale but is glad they went forward with it.

"Everything big starts small and recycling is no different," she said. "Metal recycling events like the one we held allowed people to bring items, big and small, and together we made a really big difference. I can't wait to see what we come up with next."

The students are also understandably proud of what they've achieved. "It feels great knowing that we're having a positive impact," said **Abby Burke**, a fourth grader at the school.

Classmate **Caleb Carro** agreed adding, "Recycling metals helps the earth and removes the waste from the streams and the rivers and lakes. I just want to do more."

Michael Brothers provided the hauling services and accepted cans, holiday lights, USB cables, power cords, pipes, metal siding, scrap metal, and more. Michael Brothers did not accept propane tanks, televisions, computers, electronics, chemicals and gas cans, and refrigerators.

## Memorial Elementary School Celebrates its Annual Read-A-Thon

In March, Memorial Elementary concluded its annual Read-A-Thon festivities by announcing its Grand Prize winners:

- Most money collected: **Ava Edmonds**
- Most minutes read in the school: **Adeline Smeltz**
- Classroom with the most minutes read: **Mr. Jim Foster's Class (Room 23)**
- Raffle winners for students with over 500 mins read: **Lily Zeiler** and **Lucas Zeiler**



Memorial VIPs (most minutes read in their classroom):

- Kindergarten: **Adam Obsenica, Dinah Happe, Logen Gorbin** and **Eli Kail**
- Grade 1: **Madison Paden, Leo Bucher, Brielle Hinton** and **Fife Needham**
- Grade 2: **Elijah Clonan, Elliette Gaborek** and **Hailey Voytko**
- Grade 3: **CJ McNeas, Olivia Fitch** and **Mason Hillegas**
- Grade 4: **Emma Dunn, Adeline Smeltz** and **Elle Dhulos**

The top winners received gift certificates for the upcoming book fair, and the top class won books and games for their respective classrooms. VIP students will have the opportunity to have a special lunch with the school principal, **Mr. Eric Chalus**.

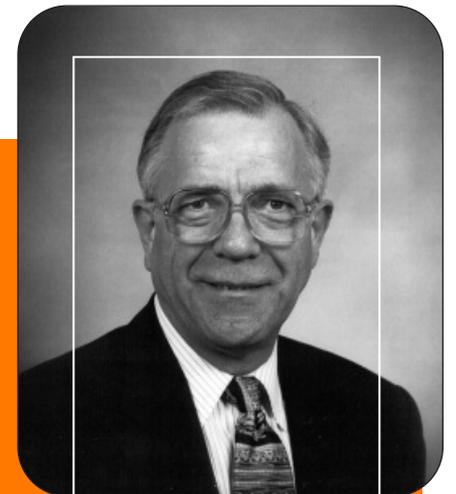
## Long-time School Board Member, Rose Memorialized

In March, the family of the late **Richard N. "Dick" Rose**, a long-time school board member who passed away in January, held a memorial service in his honor at Christ United Methodist Church. He was 89 years-old.

A Navy veteran, Rose was an accountant for PPG Industries for many years.

He was a member of the Bethel Park School Board for 32 years. He was also a member of the PA School Board Association, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and the Pathfinder School Operating Committee. Dick was also a cherished member of Christ United Methodist Church, where he served as Head Usher for 25 years.

Rose was an active yet humble leader within his community. He was a true gentleman and a loving husband, father and grandfather, with a giving heart and welcoming smile who will be missed dearly by all who knew him.



Dick Rose

## NAMS Hosts Battle of the Books 2023

In February, 23 student teams of up to six competitors, each dressed in their own uniquely literary-themed uniforms, participated in the 2023 Neil Armstrong Middle School "Battle of the Books."

The fifth and sixth grade students were required to read the books, "Pax," by Sara Pennypacker, "The Strangers," by Margaret Peterson Haddix, "I Survived the Galveston Hurricane, 1900," by Lauren Tarshis, and "Who Was Walt Disney?" by Whitney Stewart. In the competition, the moderator asked a series of questions from the various selections to determine which teams had done the best job of reading and retaining the information in those stories.

The competition had three parts – poster, costume and trivia – and all had a fun night. The creativity for the posters and costumes was incredible, and all teams did incredibly well with the trivia competition.



(l-r): Jackson Underwood, Justin Hughes, Jason Neopaney, Jonathan Kareis, Arzey Underwood and Bentley Beck

The winning teams were:

**Poster competition (as voted on by the NAMS faculty and staff):**

- 1st Place: Bookbusters  
(Nickolas Romito, Elliot Martin-Farmer, Brady Braham, Emery Turka, Miles Clancy and Landon Sierra)
- 2nd Place: Renaissance Readers  
(Alexis Klutch, Phoebe Willis, Lexi McDermott, Ella Coley and Pratikshya Adhikan)
- 3rd Place: Rockin' Readers  
(Juliette Hall, Hannah Watkins, Ashley Mattes, Bria Lang, Sophia Mary and Penny Werts)

**Costume Competition (as voted on by the "Battle of the Books" competitors themselves):**

- 1st Place: Renaissance Readers  
(Klutch, Willis, McDermott, Coley and Adhikan)
- 2nd Place: Lord of the Books  
(Bentley Beck, Jack Kareis, Justin Hughes, Jason Neopany, Jackson Underwood and Arzey Underwood)
- 3rd Place: Rockin' Readers  
(Hall, Watkins, Mattes, Lang, Mary and Werts)

**Trivia Competition:**

- 1st Place: Rural Readers  
(Leah Strack, Violet Conroy, Rachel Weiss, Emily Sabanovic, Kayla Paul and Kaitlyn Hemish-Swink)
- 2nd Place: Rockin' Readers  
(Hall, Watkins, Mattes, Lang, Mary and Werts)
- 3rd Place: Rainforest Readers  
(Emma Nelson, Mia Young, Dominic DiPaola and Samantha Hutson)

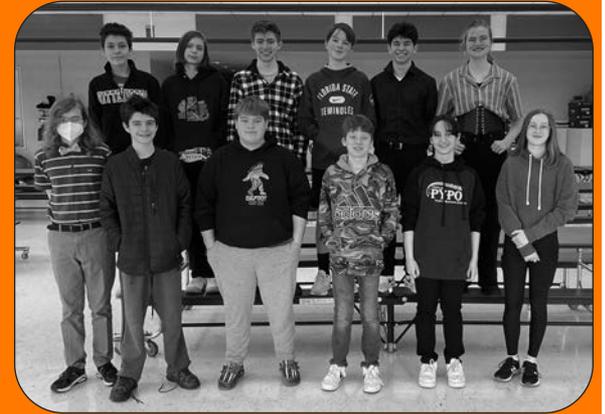
Congratulations to all of this year's competitors!

## IMS Science Club Competes in Regional Science Bowl

The IMS Science Club recently participated virtually in the PA Southwest Regional Science Bowl.

Team 1 advanced to the Final Four. It consisted of Colin Uhl, Hans Greefkes, Adele Stamenov, Odin Lundblom, and Soph Willis. Jude Nellis, Liam Coll, Milo Bucher and Tanner Lisak comprised Team 2.

???



## Steel Center CTE Honors BPHS Students

Several Bethel Park High School students were recognized as the February and March "Students of the Month" in their respective programs by the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education.

The February honorees included seniors Jacob Borkowski (*Carpentry*) and Shawn Carnahan (*Collision Repair*); and sophomores Gabriella Balkovec (*Cosmetology*), Lily Janus (*Veterinary Assistance*) and Blaise Roberto (*Building Trades*).

The March Bethel Park selections were juniors Kieren Banks (*Veterinary Assistant*), Ben Buehl (*HVAC-R*), Kristina Caruso (*Baking and Pastry Chef*), Dalton Roth (*Welding*), and George Schaefer (*Public Safety*).

Banks has twice been recognized as a Student of the Month in the Veterinary Assistant program. She has also twice earned Top of the Shop honors.

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.



(l-r): Shawn Carnahan, Nathan Stutzman, Gabriella Balkovec, Jacob Borkowski, Lily Janus and Blaise Roberto

## Nelson, Rauch Inducted into German National Honor Society

Freshmen Honors German II students **Sadie Nelson** and **Noah Rauch** were inducted into the Bethel Park High School Chapter of the Delta Epsilon Phi German National Honor Society on March 13.

To be eligible for induction into Delta Epsilon Phi, students must have a 3.6 GPA or higher in German and a 3.3 GPA or higher in all other courses. They must achieve at least one unweighted A grade in German every three semesters and may not earn a grade of C or lower. They must also demonstrate commitment to continuing their study of German in the BPHS German program.



## Bethel Park Rotary Recognition

The Bethel Park Rotary's "Students of the Month" for February and March were seniors **Anna Minick** and **Nicholas Calano**. The Bethel Park High School students were each recognized during separate luncheons at The Garden Restaurant on Gardenville Rd.

Minick is a very busy young lady. In addition to working part-time at Clean Juice, a smoothie shop in Peters Township, she is heavily involved in several activities including the National Honor Society, the Best Buddies and as a Student Government Association senate member. She was also a four-year member of the Hawks Girls Soccer Team. Despite all those activities and other interests competing for her time, Minick still has a weighted GPA of 4.5. She credits her classroom success to her work ethic.



Rotary President Dr. Roger Angelelli and students Anna Minick (left) and Nick Calano

"I am not naturally the best student in every class, especially math, but I found that with hard work and dedication, I can achieve whatever I put my mind to," she said.

Minick plans to study speech pathology but has not decided on a college destination.

Calano's academic path has been somewhat unconventional. Born and raised in Bethel Park, the versatile Calano, like his older siblings, was home-schooled through eighth grade. He attended the Steel



Center for Career and Technical Education as a sophomore and studied carpentry. Calano no longer attends Steel Center but maintains a strong interest in carpentry.

"I have always been very interested in understanding exactly how and why things work," he said. "Carpentry is a great way to create something and work through a project's various challenges."

He is active in his church and is the secretary of the Student Government Association (SGA). That organization donated over 1,000 socks to the Light of Life Mission in the fall as part of its "Socktober" initiative. Calano is also a member of the two-time state champion baseball team, the treasurer for Best Buddies, and part of the Class of '23 Ways and Means Committee. Calano also served as an official for Bethel Park's Unified Indoor Bocce Team's home matches.

Calano's interests in sustainability and understanding how things function have led him to consider a career in civil engineering.

"I am interested in civil engineering because I like construction, and it's all physics and math-based, which I enjoy," he said. "I have had the opportunity to speak with civil engineers about their profession, which matches my personality and interests well."

Calano has yet to settle on a college choice but is still considering Pitt-Johnstown, Toledo and others.

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.

## Fisher Wins Golden Hammer Award



Gavin Fisher & Michael Harrison

**Gavin Fisher**, a Bethel Park High School freshman who also attends Mon Valley CTC, was recently recognized at that school's Golden Hammer Awards for his work in Buildings and Grounds.

Each semester, the school honors students who show excellence and leadership in their vocational and leadership in their vocational program. Fisher (pictured with teacher **Michael Harrison**) was also selected to represent Mon Valley in the Governor's April 19 STEM Competition at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network Conference in Harrisburg.

## Bethel Park's Class of '23 Senior Prom



The pandemic often felt like a winter that would not relent. Its treacherous grip on the world disrupted almost everything, even cherished traditions like the annual Senior Prom.

Bethel Park was, unfortunately, no exception to those disruptions. In 2020, the annual rite of Spring was canceled due to the pandemic. In 2021, Bethel Park's prom was held at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport. It came with various mitigation strategies, including mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent breaks and rotations.

Last year, for the first time since before the pandemic, the school held a much more traditional prom with more standard protocols when it held its annual event at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Hotel, adjacent to Point State Park.

This year, with Spring and the accompanying warm weather finally upon us again, the prom will return to the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh on Friday, May 26. High School Teacher **Brad Kszastowski**, the prom's co-sponsor with fellow teacher **Chris Durco**, is excited to return to a more traditional event.

"This year's prom is going to be a great way to celebrate the end of the school year," he said. "The pandemic has loomed over everyone's heads for most of these students' high school careers, and I'm looking forward to seeing them cut loose and have a good time without worrying about anything so serious."

This year's event, which will not require masking or social distancing, promises a more traditional experience for all involved.

The theme for the 2023 prom is Masquerade, and the event will feature a caricature artist, a photo booth and a DJ. According to Kszastowski, that is a credit to the class' fundraising efforts.

"This year's senior class has done an amazing job of raising money throughout their time here, and while that lowers the costs for everyone, it is also a wonderful way to build class camaraderie. This group has embraced that approach," he said.

## Franklin Celebrates Read-A-Thon Winners



In March, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School finished its annual Read-A-Thon with a celebration and awards ceremony that included fun prizes and the opportunity to tape a teacher to the wall and throw a pie in the faces of some of their favorite teachers. One hundred and forty-one students participated, with 282 Bingo's won, 74,578 minutes read, and \$5,086.44 raised. One lucky student even won a Chromebook.

The top performing class **Mrs. KD's Meucci's** class with 15,658 minutes read. The top fundraising class was **Mrs. Peggy Ann Clancy's** class, which raised \$909.44. The top individual readers were **Juliet Kellander** (3,168 minutes read), **Quinn Dobos** (2,437 minutes read) and **Anthony Durso** (1,540 minutes read). The top individual fundraisers were **Sam Sivetz** (\$509.44 raised), **Kellander** (\$255 raised), and **Durso** (\$237 raised).

## Ten Bethel Park Music Students to Perform at PMEA All-State Festival



Ten Bethel Park High School music students earned seats through multiple competitive auditions to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's (PMEA) 2023 All-State Festival and Annual In-Service Conference in April at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in the Poconos.

The choir students chosen to sing at the festival, under the direction of **Mr. Todd Kuczawa**, included senior **Keegan Brusoski** (bass 2); juniors **Clara McGough** (alto 1), **Meghan DeHaven** (alto 2) and **Sam Pellis** (bass 2); and sophomore **Maria Catana** (soprano 1).

The orchestra students selected to perform at the festival included senior **Katie Wolf** (violin), junior **Katie Peterson** (violin), and sophomore **Ethan Alberter** (trumpet). They are led by Orchestra Director **Mrs. Stephanie Glover**.

Juniors **Caleb Jones** (trumpet) and **Justin Muench** (trumpet) represented the Bethel Park band at the event. The Band Director is **Mr. Chad Thompson**.

PMEA, Pennsylvania's branch of the National Association for Music Education, is a nonprofit organization of more than 4,000 members dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. The organization promotes and supports quality music education, learning and performance, as well as promoting and supporting music education in schools and communities.





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# Start your Spring and Summer plans with us!

### MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Monday, May 29  
10 a.m.

Join us for our annual Memorial Day Program starting off at the Veterans Plaza in front of the Municipal Building! See pg. 3 for the complete schedule.

### LIVE WELL BETHEL PARK

Municipality of Bethel Park Facebook page  
We'll now be running our "Live Well" program throughout the summer! See what programs we have lined up from May-August on pg. 4.

### RAISING FUNDS WHILE RAISING SPIRITS

Bethel Park Public Library  
See pg. 6 for dates and times to schedule an appointment with Psychic Medium Debbie Pakler for this unique entertainment opportunity that supports the Bethel Park Library!

### LIBRARY ADULT SUMMER READING CLUB

Starts Monday, June 5  
We'd love for you to join us! See pg. 6 for information.

### SOLAR OBSERVING & THE 2024 TOTAL ECLIPSE

July 26 - 6 p.m.

Bethel Park Public Library

Learn how to observe the upcoming solar eclipses at this interesting program.

### BETHEL PARK FARMERS' MARKET

Opens May 2

3-7 p.m. - South Park Ice Rink Parking Lot

Get ready...The Farmers' Market is ready for a great season full of your favorite vendors along with many new ones! They'll also have a number of special surprises as well! See pgs. 30 & 31.

### RECREATION YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

See pgs. 25, 26 & 27

Looking for a fun camp for your child this summer? While our Recreation Summer Camp is full, we have many special camps full of unique experiences for your child to enjoy! Check them out and register soon!

### 2ND ANNUAL PARK & PLAY PROGRAM

Because of the great response we received from last year's Park & Play series, we're bringing it back with a full lineup of events from June - October! See details on pg. 32.

### DEAN STREATOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

July 9 - Aug. 6

Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Bethel Park Community Center

Brought to you by the Bethel Park Community Foundation, concerts are all free with limited seating. See pg. 33 for the full program lineup!

### RECREATION'S OUTDOOR POWER YOGA

June 21 - Aug. 8

Park Ave. Field

No previous yoga experience is needed! This program offers a blend of Pilates and Yoga. Must be age 18 or over to participate. See pg. 34.

### GARAGE SALE IN THE PARK

Sept. 16

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Industrial Boulevard

Reserve vendor space now by emailing Barb Peters at [saws60bp@gmail.com](mailto:saws60bp@gmail.com).