

# Bethel Park CHRONICLES

*The Official Bethel Park Municipal & School District Newsletter*

Vol. 27, No. 2 • DECEMBER 2025

From our crew to yours - Happy Holidays! We'll be plowing the way so you can celebrate safely.



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

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[www.bethelparkpa.gov](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov)



# Welcome to **THE** Heart Experts.

At St. Clair, we've assembled some of the country's best cardiovascular specialists right here and



# Welcome to Bethel Park: A New Resident Resource



We're excited to welcome new neighbors to Bethel Park!

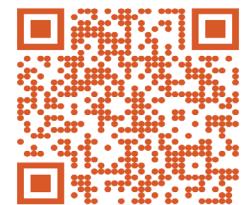
Our new resident webpage makes it easy to find **KEY INFO**,  
**LOCAL SERVICES**, and **HELPFUL RESOURCES**.

Whether you're unpacking boxes or exploring Bethel Park, the Municipality's new resident webpage is your go-to guide for settling in with ease.

Created to help newcomers feel at home from day one, this digital hub offers everything from local attractions and recreation programs to school and utility information, public services, and community events.

## The page features:

- **Permit, tax, and utility guidance**
- **School Information**
- **Park and Recreation highlights**
- **Local shops and restaurants**
- **School Information**
- **Emergency services and municipal contact info**
- **Ways to get involved**
- **And, much more!**



Scan here for  
more info!



With vibrant photos and quick links, the page reflects the welcoming nature of Bethel Park. It's also a great resource for longtime residents looking to rediscover what makes our community shine.

Explore the page at [bethelparkpa.gov/new-resident-page](http://bethelparkpa.gov/new-resident-page) and share it with friends, neighbors, and anyone considering a move to Bethel Park.

## Christopher Van Dyke 2025 "Citizen of the Year"



Mayor Jack Allen presented Bethel Park resident Christopher Van Dyke with the 2025 Citizen of the Year award at the Monday, Oct. 13 Council Meeting.

Van Dyke received the award in recognition of his "hard work, commitment, and dedication to the Municipality of Bethel Park."

"Chris' nomination pointed out that he started a business in Bethel Park and volunteers with the Blackhawk Family Relief Fund. And Chris was instrumental in raising funds after the 2018 flood to help those in need in our community," said Mayor Allen. "His efforts went towards helping restore power, arranging donations and transportation for families in need and providing home repairs as well. His nomination also pointed to him helping with assistance during the holidays."

Van Dyke was honored with a plaque during the Council meeting.

The program recognizes an individual from Bethel Park, age 18 or older, who has demonstrated excellent community leadership, made a significant



contribution to the community, has positively impacted Bethel Park residents, and has shown generosity and unselfishness through his or her actions.

"This is a natural offshoot for me to now coordinate this program as I've been regularly recognizing our Bethel Park citizens for their achievements, honors and awards since I became mayor," said Mayor Allen. "We have an incredible community and it gives me and all of Council pleasure to acknowledge our residents for the outstanding contributions they make to Bethel Park."

 **Prioritize Health**  
Independent Insurance Specialist

Confused about Medicare?  
You're not alone — and I'm here to help.  
I can simplify the process and guide you  
through your options at no cost to you.

Carleen Lachman  
 724.571.4688  
 [carleen@prioritizehealthpa.com](mailto:carleen@prioritizehealthpa.com)





## MANAGER'S CORNER



Kristen Denne



### Municipal Offices Closed:

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Thursday, Dec. 25

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Thursday, Jan. 1

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
Monday, Feb. 16



## A Holiday Message from Kristen Denne

As the holiday season approaches, the Bethel Park Municipal team extends our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate our traditions, and look forward to a bright new year.

A new Municipal Council will be sworn in on **Monday, Jan. 5, 2026**. We hope you'll join us in welcoming the newly elected officials as well as the incumbents as they prepare to take on a new year of challenges and projects for the Bethel Park community.

We would also like to remind you of a few important updates regarding Municipal operations during the holiday period:

#### Municipal Office Hours:

Our offices will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day in observance of the holidays. Regular office hours will resume on the next business day.

#### Essential Services:

Police, fire, and emergency response will continue to operate 24/7. For fire and EMS emergencies, **dial 911**. For police emergencies, call Bethel Park Police Dispatch at **412-833-2000**.

#### Trash and Recycling:

Collection schedules may be adjusted due to the holidays. Please refer to the Bethel Park website or your mailed service schedule for any changes.

*Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!*

We also invite you to participate in our upcoming holiday events:

#### Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony:

Join us at the Bethel Park Community Center on **Saturday, Dec. 6 from 3-7 p.m.** This year, the event has been moved to Saturday, with expanded hours and new activities, while preserving the traditions our community has come to enjoy. An Indoor Market will also be held during the event, with activities throughout the Center for all ages. Enjoy holiday music, festive activities, and plenty of fun to get you into the holiday spirit!

#### Charity Drives:

We encourage you to participate in our holiday food and toy drives to benefit local families in need. Donation bins are available at the Community Center and Municipal offices.

#### Community Resources:

Please feel free to contact [www.PA211SW.org](http://www.PA211SW.org) or **dial 211** from any phone to receive assistance with utilities, food, housing, and human services.

We are grateful for your continued support and community spirit. On behalf of all Municipal staff, we wish you a safe, joyful, and memorable holiday season, and look forward to serving you in the year ahead.



## Mayor Allen's Annual Holiday Decorating Contest!

**Nominate your home or someone else's!**



To nominate a home, email [jdavin@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:jdavin@bethelparkpa.gov) or call **412-831-6800, x211** by **Thursday, Dec. 18**. Judging will begin immediately after.

There will be one winner per ward (*nine total wards*); winners will be announced at the Jan 12th Council Meeting.

#### Want to Be a Judge?

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

# From Lab Manager to Leader: Jacob Miller Steps into Superintendent Role at Bethel Park Wastewater Treatment Plant

After nearly two decades of dedicated service, **Jacob Miller** has officially stepped into the role of Superintendent at the Bethel Park Wastewater Treatment Plant—a position he's prepared for since 2006 when he first began work there.

"I came to my initial position at the plant from a smaller facility where I was a lab tech and operator," he recalls. "The role at Bethel Park was a more advanced position, and at the time, Pennsylvania was just launching its lab accreditation program. I got our lab accredited right away."

His early work focused on water testing, compliance with NPDES permits, and the microscopic world of "bugs"—the beneficial organisms that help treat wastewater. "It's all about calculations, biology, and making sure what goes back into the stream from our Treatment Plant supports the environment," Miller said. "We don't sterilize the water—it still contains nutrients and organisms that are vital to Piney Fork and Peters Creek."

Now, as Superintendent, Miller is leading a team of nine employees—most with 25+ years of experience. "I've worked here 19.5 years, and I think the team is behind me. They all congratulated me, and I'm grateful for that support."

The Bethel Park Wastewater Treatment Plant treats an average of 4.92 million gallons of water daily, using gravity-based systems, biological tanks, UV disinfection, and digesters to remove solids. "It's a well-run plant," he said. "The previous Superintendent did a great job before me. I'm not planning to make major changes right away, but I'm interested in exploring new testing methods and technologies—AI is a hot topic right now."

Outside of work, Miller is a devoted husband to Amber and a proud father of two daughters, ages 10 and 8. He's also an avid outdoorsman who loves to hunt, fish and hike. "Growing up, I couldn't speak correctly and had therapy to help me. I started college in speech therapy, but after a year, I switched to environmental studies because that's where my heart was," he said.

He credits his grandmother Barbara, who's 98 now, for finding his first internship at the Cranberry Wastewater Treatment Plant that launched his career in the industry. "Our running joke is that I still owe her payback!" he said.

From Cranberry, he went on to be a geographical researcher for Flood Zone Determination Services and next a laboratory technician/plant operator for the Chippewa Township Sanitary Authority before coming to the Bethel Park Plant.

Miller's passion for environmental stewardship runs deep. "I really love the environment and doing my best to preserve it. This plant gives me that opportunity. I'm excited about my new position, and the exciting challenges ahead such as new testing methods, permits, and learning more about emerging contaminants like PFAS (forever chemicals), and the evolving science of water treatment."

He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of Pittsburgh and is a Licensed Wastewater Plant Operator, Class B, subclass 1 and 2 as well as a Registered Laboratory Manager.

Congratulations to Jacob Miller on this well-earned promotion. Bethel Park is lucky to have a leader who blends technical expertise, environmental passion, and a deep respect for the community he serves.



*"I really love the environment and doing my best to preserve it. This plant gives me that opportunity. I'm excited about my new position, and the exciting challenges ahead such as new testing methods, permits, and learning more about emerging contaminants like PFAS (forever chemicals), and the evolving science of water treatment."*



BETHEL PARK PUBLIC  
**LIBRARY**  
Explore • Learn • Create • Connect

5100 West Library Ave.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

412-835-2207

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

#### Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 8 PM

Friday & Saturday: 10 AM- 5 PM

Sunday: 12 PM - 4 PM

The Library is CLOSED on Sundays

Memorial Day - Labor Day

*Always Open Online*

Sign Up for  
Our  
Newsletter



#### Holiday Hours

Closed December 24 & 25

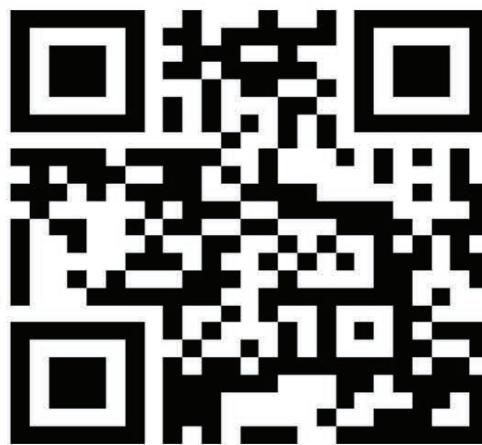
Opening at noon on December 26

Closed December 31 & January 1

Opening at noon January 2

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Visit the  
Library  
Calendar





# TRI-COMMUNITY SOUTH EMS

## A Message from Tri-Community South EMS

Historically we have the most snowfall in February, but Mother Nature starts when she wants. Every year people die of a heart attack during or just after snow removal. So, here are some **tips to keep in mind when shoveling:**

- Wait about an hour after waking up to reach for your shovel. Most heart attacks occur early in the morning.
- Layer up with a few thin layers. This will keep you warmer than one thick layer and you can remove a layer, as needed, to avoid overheating.
- Wear a scarf to cover your mouth, head and neck so that warm air hits your lungs first when you breathe in.
- Be sure boots and gloves are waterproof to avoid dampness.
- Drinking plenty of water helps the heart pump blood to the muscles more easily so your heart doesn't have to work as hard.
- Eat a light meal vs a heavy meal before shoveling. Heavy meals divert your blood from your heart to your stomach.
- Stretch before heading out.
- Pace yourself by shoveling in 10-15 minute clips.
- Try *pushing the snow* instead of lifting it. When lifting, bend your knees and use your legs, not your back.
- Call 911 right away for any unusual signs and symptoms, such as chest pain, dizziness or shortness of breath that may suggest a heart condition.

A reminder when calling **911** – be prepared to give your name, gender of the person affected, age, what the issue is and your location – being as specific as possible. Stay on the phone with the **911** personnel until help arrives.



**TRI-COMMUNITY SOUTH 2026 AMBULANCE SUBSCRIPTION**

5490 PROGRESS BLVD,  
BETHEL PARK, PA 15102  
EMERGENCY - DIAL 911  
NON-EMERGENCY - (412) 831-3710

**Join Today!**

**WHO WE ARE**

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by providing the highest level of out-of-hospital care possible, thereby improving the outcomes of catastrophic illness and significant injury. We also aim to create a caring environment with an emphasis on the safety and professional competency of all employees and volunteers. All resources will be utilized in an efficient manner, in-pursuit of accomplishing our mission.

**WHO WE SERVE**

Bethel Park  
South Park  
Upper St. Clair

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

CPR Classes • Stop the Bleed Training • ACLS and PALS Training • First Aid/AED Training • Texting and Driving Program • Attend Block Parties • Senior Citizen Safety Programs • Guest Speakers for Your Organization • EMT/EVOC Training

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Your subscription ensures we're prepared for any emergency and helps fund essential ambulances, medical equipment, building expenses, and staff training. Tri-Community South EMS receives NO tax subsidies from their municipalities or townships. Therefore, without our residents' support, we would not be able to provide this valuable service.

**Our Subscription Provides:**

- Up to a **50% discount per emergency transport** on any out-of-pocket expenses
- \*Subscription must be active at the time of service in order to receive subscription benefits.

**Join our 2026 Ambulance Subscription Program:**  
Coverage Period: January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026  
Subscription Options: \$70 Individual | \$90 Household

**How to Join:**

- **Mail:** Return the form below with payment
- **Online:** Scan the QR Code or visit [WWW.TCSEMS.ORG](http://WWW.TCSEMS.ORG)

SCAN ME 

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,  
*Tri-Community South EMS*

**TRI-COMMUNITY SOUTH 2026 AMBULANCE SUBSCRIPTION**

\*\*Return this portion with payment to 5490 Progress Blvd, Bethel Park, PA 15102\*\*

Please Select Membership:

\$70 INDIVIDUAL

\$90 HOUSEHOLD

Optional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to  
**TRI-COMMUNITY SOUTH EMS**

## Contact Us:



Web: [tcsems.org](http://tcsems.org)  
Phone (non-emergency): 412-831-3710  
Facebook: 'Tri-Community South EMS'  
Address: 5490 Progress Blvd., Bethel Park  
Emergency Calls: 911



# Help Us Help You!

With expected snow arriving, we're asking that you please do the following so we can clear the roads and get you moving again!

- Move your vehicles from the road to your driveway or designated parking area.
- Keep cul-de-sacs free from vehicles.
- Pull in your trash & recycling bins from the road.

 *Thank you!*

## School Memories Christmas Ornament

Hold your school memories close this Christmas and always.

SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!  
PICK UP YOUR METAL ORNAMENT (4"X2.75")  
AT EVEY HARDWARE.  
PAY IN PERSON WITH CASH OR  
CHECK (PAYABLE TO BPCF),  
OR USE CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ONLINE.



**Abraham Lincoln Elementary School 1965-2026**

**Benjamin Franklin Elementary School 1955-2026**

**Bethel Memorial Elementary School 1949-2026**

**George Washington Elementary School 1966-2026**

**Neil Armstrong Middle School 1971-2026**

**William Penn Elementary School 1962-2026**

**\$25 per ornament**  
Proceeds benefit the BP Fantastic Four Charities & the new Bethel Park Elementary School PTO.

## Celebrate the Holidays with a Piece of Bethel Park History

The Bethel Park Fantastic Four Charities (*Bethel Park Community Foundation, Bethel Park Educational Foundation, Bethel Park Historical Society, and the Bethel Park Public Library*) in partnership with Bethel Park Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) are honoring the closing of six beloved school buildings with a fundraiser that blends nostalgia, artistry, and community spirit.

Renowned national artist and photographer **JP Diroll** was commissioned to capture the schools in photographs that have now been transformed into limited edition Christmas ornaments. Each ornament features one of the closing schools - Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Bethel Memorial, William Penn, George Washington, or Neil Armstrong - and includes historical facts on the back, making them a keepsake.

Ornaments are on sale now and available:

- Through all school PTOs
- At Evey True Value Hardware
- Online via QR code on graphic above (with shipping available anywhere - perfect for gifts!)

Proceeds will be split between the Fantastic Four Charities and the new Elementary School PTO, ensuring funds are in place to support students when the new facility opens in July 2026.

At just \$25 each, these ornaments are more than decorations - they are a way to preserve memories of the laughter, lessons, and friendships that filled Bethel Park's schools for generations. Sales will continue through 2026, giving families and alumni plenty of time to collect and cherish them.

"These ornaments are more than holiday decorations, they're a way to honor our schools, support our charities, and give the new Elementary School PTO a strong start," said **Andy Amrhein**, President of the Library Board. "It's a project that celebrates our past while investing in our future."



## Tis the Season!

### A Message from Outreach Teen & Family Services

While we mostly think of these days as a time of joy and good tidings, they can also be filled with stress and triggers, especially for those who are already coping with emotional struggles.

Mental Health America reports that 21 million American adults, and another 3.7 million youth (ages 12-17), are affected by major depression each year. Despite the pervasive nature of depression, harmful myths abound that prevent people from seeking support. Increased awareness about depression can help all of us to be more aware this holiday season.

The misconception that depression manifests from a particular cause or always reveals itself as “feeling sad” are myths. In reality, depression is not always a cause-and-effect phenomenon, nor can it be defined simply as sadness. More aptly put, depression is a prolonged state of general malaise and hopelessness that is often accompanied by physical symptoms. Around the holidays, these symptoms can increase and be disguised as your typical holiday blues.

Family togetherness is a common source of tension during the holidays, but it's important to remember that people who don't have family to share the festivities with are vulnerable, as well. The messages we see on social media at this time of year – that everyone is happily shopping for presents, sharing meals together and celebrating – can serve as triggers and painful reminders for those who feel left out.

Similarly, feelings of anxiety and grief can also increase this time of year. It can be hard to reconcile pain and worry with the joyful, happy sights and sounds of the holidays – Feelings of helplessness and hopelessness do not mix well with songs urging us to be “merry” and “bright.” As a result, most

people experience a pressure to conform to the collective emotional norm and may be hesitant to share about their current struggles.

This year, as a gift to ourselves and to everyone near and dear, let's embrace both the joy and the stress that co-mingle – We cannot lose sight of the very real fact that both seemingly opposing feeling states are in fact a normal and healthy part of this time of year. In the spirit of the season, we would do well to remember that being loving to ourselves and others is perhaps the greatest gift of all.

#### Be sure to take care of yourself by:

- Sleeping, eating and exercising as you normally would.
- And just as our bodies need looking after, we must also prioritize our emotional well-being throughout all the hustle and bustle.
- Take timeouts when you need them and put into practice your go-to stress relievers – Meditate, read, watch your comfort show, go for a walk, take a nap.
- Equally as important, pay attention to your loved ones, friends and co-workers – Check-in, ask questions, take the time to make someone else feel appreciated by gifting them with your attention and energy.

This time of year can be uplifting and renewing, but it is also taxing and may evoke stress, sadness and anxiety. Tis the season to remember life is dynamic and ever changing. What we see as a problem today, may be a guideline we use to mark change tomorrow. Best wishes for the holidays and for 2026!



## Annual Realtor Brunch

Close to 40 real estate professionals attended the annual Realtor Brunch held Thursday, Nov. 6 at the Bethel Park Community Center.

Bethel Park Manager **Kristen Denne**, Council President **John Oakes**, and Bethel Park School District Superintendent **Dr. Walsh** spoke to the group providing Municipal and School District updates and information, and Mayor **Jack Allen** was the event host. There was also an informative Q&A with guests.

Representatives from the Municipality, School District, Police Department, Library, Bethel Park School District, Tri-Community South EMS, LifeSpan, and Chamber manned information tables as well during the two-hour event.

Guests were also given informational folders to share with their clients and were provided with a walk-through of the new resident website now available on the Bethel Park website - [www.bethelparkpa.gov](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov).

*Thank you to everyone who attended! We look forward to hosting the event again next year!*



# BETHEL PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Texas Flood Victim Supply Drive

This summer, the BPPD called on the community to come together to help the victims of the horrendous flooding in Texas.

Because of your efforts, we were able to make the largest single donation to the Brother's Brother Foundation who helped to distribute the much-needed supplies.

Our donation was actually so large that there were pallets left over that were sent to Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa.

Thank you Bethel Park!



## Back to School Kept Us Busy!

This year, before school started, we participated in a few wonderful events to help those in need with getting new school supplies.

The annual "Shop with a Cop" event at SHV Macy's gave us the opportunity to take a local family on a \$250 shopping spree for new school clothes and supplies.

We then "stuffed a bus" with supplies at the BP Farmers' Market to help our local classrooms thrive.



## Thank You for an Amazing National Night Out!



National Night Out is our largest (*and most fun*) event that we host in the summer. This year was no exception, and we saw the largest turnout in recent memory!

We could not host this wonderful community gathering without the help of the businesses and community leaders who support our efforts. We can't wait to see everyone out again next year!



Thank you



Artis Senior Living  
BP Walmart  
Pittsburgh Zoo  
BP Fire Dept  
PGH DJ Truck  
Beedle's Ice Cream  
BP Public Works  
PGH Party Creation  
Angel Ridge Animal Rescue  
Washington Wild Things  
State Rep Natalie Mihalek

BP Pet Supplies Plus  
South Park Shops  
Tri Corn Medics  
Dollar Tree  
Hill's Snack Truck  
Ma & Pop's  
IUP Police Academy  
S. Hills Pet Rescue  
Fire Fighters Sales & Service  
Senator Devlin Robinson



## New Partnerships

We recently partnered with two wonderful local organizations that will help us better support our wonderful community. Our Black Rose donated several care packages that we can distribute to suicide survivors in the heartbreaking event that such support is needed. We also partnered with 12 Months of April – Autism Advocacy Project, who donated sensory kits for each of our patrol vehicles. These kits will help us better support individuals with autism and sensory processing challenges.



## In Memoriam

The Bethel Park Police Department is saddened to announce the passing of two retired employees and cherished members of both our Department and community.

In July, we lost **Rosanne Heyl**, a former dispatcher who dedicated 23 years of service to the residents of Bethel Park. Rosanne passed away peacefully and will be remembered for her commitment and kindness.

In October, we also lost Retired Lieutenant **Ralph Litzenburger**, who honorably served the Bethel Park Police Department for decades following a distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and loved ones of Rosanne and Lt. Litzenburger. They will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.



## Topgolf Pro Am for Special Olympics

In the fall, we had a blast participating in the Topgolf Pro Am for Special Olympics and helped to raise over \$2,000 for this amazing organization.



## Halloween Fun!

Halloween was especially fun this year and we got to attend numerous “trunk or treat” events around town and led both BP Halloween Parade routes. The YMCA Omaha Princesses even stopped by to lock up their dads!



## Contact / Social Media

**ANONYMOUS TIPS** can be called into the Hotline - **412-851-BPPD** (or 2773) or emailed to [crimewatch@bethelparkpapolice.gov](mailto:crimewatch@bethelparkpapolice.gov).

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram for updates!

### FACEBOOK:

Bethel Park Police Department

### TWITTER:

@bethelparkpd

### INSTAGRAM:

bethelparkpolice

**POLICE CHIEF:** David Arnold

**CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER:** Amber Carruba



If you would like to be added to the Crime Watch e-mail list, please visit our webpage at [crimewatch@bethelparkpapolice.gov](mailto:crimewatch@bethelparkpapolice.gov) and enter your name and email on our sign-up form.



# BP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

## Bethel Park Residents to Call 9-1-1 for the Fire Department



As of Nov. 3, 2025, the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company ("BPVFC") is being directly dispatched by Allegheny County 911 for all emergency calls. Allegheny County 911 will handle all incoming emergency calls and directly dispatch the BPVFC. Additionally, the BPVFC will collaborate with our neighboring mutual aid services on a shared channel, which will enhance engagement with other response agencies. The Bethel Park Dispatch Center will continue to operate as a ring-up center, receiving and dispatching police and serving as a local point of contact for residents at the municipal building.

### What do you as a resident need to do?

Individuals and businesses who have a fire alarm system currently monitored by the Bethel Park Dispatch Center and wish to have it connected directly to the Allegheny County 9-1-1 Center should contact their alarm company and update the dispatch number to **412-473-3370**. The quickest way to get the fire department through your alarm company is to change the number the alarm company calls to the 412-473-3370 number. It is important to note that updating your fire alarm number to the County 9-1-1 Center is not a mandatory requirement. You retain the option to continue using the existing number, **412-833-2000**. If you choose this option, our Bethel Park Dispatcher will continue to receive your alarm calls and relay them to the county for dispatch.

### What changes will residents notice?

Other than calling 9-1-1 for fire department response, residents should experience no difference in services. The move was seamless and will improve overall fire department operations.



## Open House 2025

We would like to thank all those who came to our Open House in October.

The event was a huge success and we had a lot of fun meeting residents and teaching both kids and adults about fire safety.

Special thanks go out to these local organizations and businesses that helped make the day a success:

**Evey True Value Hardware**  
**Bethel Park Police**  
**Tri Community South EMS**  
**Britney Hollick State Farm**  
**Bethel Bakery**  
**Friends of the Bethel Park Public Library**

## Don't Lose the Spark!

*Have you ever dreamed of being a firefighter? Dressed up as one at Halloween as a child?*

Being a volunteer gives you the opportunity to be a firefighter just like you always dreamed of! Volunteering your time as a firefighter is a great way to give back to your community. The entire community of Bethel Park is protected from fire by volunteers. Since 1927, the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company has not had any paid firefighters. We have relied on men and women from within the community to step up and volunteer to protect their family, property, and neighbors from fire.

Unfortunately, over the years, we have not had enough volunteers joining to ensure that we will continue to be able to adequately protect Bethel Park into the future. We are always looking for volunteers age 18 or older to help protect our community of over 32,000 residents and more than 650 businesses.

For anyone currently attending or interested in attending CCAC, a scholarship program may be available to you. **BPVFC provides all members with free training and all necessary equipment.**

If you or someone you know is interested or has questions about joining, please email us at [bpvcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bpvcmembership@gmail.com) or fill out an application on our website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com).

## Fundraising Update

Several months ago we launched an exciting new **"Tip Board"** **fundraising initiative** designed to give the community a chance at winning prizes while helping the department.

### Here's how it works:

- Participants purchase numbered spots on a board.
- Each "tip" represents a chance to win the specified prize. (Examples of prizes include lottery tickets, cash, grills, generators, smart home devices, and gift cards.)
- All winners are drawn live on our Facebook account, and all proceeds go directly toward purchasing essential equipment for our firefighters.

Be sure to follow our **Fundraising Facebook page** to see all of the latest tip boards and to hear who wins!

### Facebook:

Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Co. Fundraising **Fundraising Square site:** <https://bethel-park-volunteer-fire-company.square.site/s/shop>



# A Message from the Fire Chief: Dave Gerber



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

In November, everyone changed their clocks, so **you should have also changed the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** If you have not changed your batteries, be sure to take the time to do so now! As you are changing the batteries, check to see if there is a sticker on your detector stating the date of manufacture. Smoke detectors are typically good for 10 years and carbon monoxide detectors are usually good for 7 years. A detector older than that may not be reliable.

Below I have also included several safety tips to help keep you safe this winter. Many of these are issues that we encounter in this community every year.

## WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

### Candles



Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires – and home fire deaths. **December is the peak month for home candle fires.**

Over half of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to something that will burn. More than one third of candle fires begin in the bedroom. Avoid using candles in the bedroom or other areas where people

may fall asleep. The majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence.

Following these simple tips could help save your life.

- If you do use candles, ensure that they are in a sturdy holder and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Put candle holders on a stable, uncluttered surface.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down – put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters and fire carefully.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

### Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely.

In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. **Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.** If the CO alarm sounds, immediately go outside to fresh air and keep your windows and doors in the house closed. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for, call the fire department and wait outside for them to arrive.

During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

If you need to warm a vehicle, be sure to remove it from the garage



immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open.

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



### HOLIDAY DECORATING

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems. A heat source too close to the tree causes more than one in every five of the fires.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season by following these safety tips!*

### Trees

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

*(Cont. on pg. 14)*

## How to Reach Us



None of our three fire stations are regularly staffed with members. If you need us to respond to your emergency, you must call the Police Dispatch at **412-833-2000** or call **911**. If you have a non-emergency question or concern, the best and fastest way to reach us is through our "contact us" page on the website at [www.bethelparkvfc.com](http://www.bethelparkvfc.com).

If you are on Facebook, you can always send us a message on there as well. You may also call us at **412-835-1127** and leave a message on the answering machine.



**BETHEL PARK**  
VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

**HELP  
WANTED  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Call for  
Volunteers**

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

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

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

*Happy Holidays from your  
Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company!*



#### Lights

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Always follow manufacturer's recommendations as to how many sets can be plugged in together.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place or run strings of lights through hooks or clips (*available at hardware stores*).
- If you want to be especially safe, turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. This eliminates the risk of lights shorting out and starting a fire.
- For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

#### Heating

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths?

With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

Chimneys and vents should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional every year. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 ft. away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater. Never use your oven to heat your home!

Portable space heaters should be plugged directly into an outlet and not an extension cord. Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

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

If you are a renter, your landlord is legally required to provide a dwelling temperature of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit when the outside temperature is 10 degrees or above, or at least 61 degrees when the outside temperature is below 10 degrees. If they refuse to do so, call the Allegheny County Health Department at **412-350-4046**, who will ensure they comply with County law.

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



# NEWS FROM JUDGE ARNONI



## Giving Back and Staying Safe: A Holiday Guide for Our Community

As the holiday season approaches, it is an opportunity for reflection, connection and celebration. This time of year reminds me of the importance of two principles: **generosity and safety**.

The holidays are often associated with giving, but true generosity goes beyond wrapped gifts. It's about contributing to the well-being of our family, friends and neighbors in meaningful ways. Acts of service such as giving to food drives, a student shoveling a driveway, or donating to organizations such as the Salvation Army or Toys for tots are ways to improve the lives of others.

You might consider volunteering at a soup kitchen, animal shelter or one of the many local organizations that need help.

Whatever the cause, these acts of generosity will uplift you and those you impact. I encourage you to give back in a way that is meaningful to you.

While embracing generosity, we must also prioritize safety. The holidays come with unique risks. It is important to be aware of the dangers to help protect yourself and your family.



### Home and Property Safety

- Secure all doors and windows even if leaving home briefly.
- Avoid displaying gifts near visible windows to deter theft.
- If you are traveling, ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail or have your mail held by the post office.
- Timers for lights are a good idea to make your home look occupied.
- Fire safety is another key consideration. Throw away any damaged light strands and never leave candles unattended.

### Travel and Driving Precautions

- Check your vehicle before hitting the road. Inspect brakes, tires and fluid levels.
- Double-check that all of your lights are working correctly.
- When you are planning your route, monitor the weather and allow extra travel time if needed.
- For longer trips, pack an emergency kit with essentials like a flashlight, jumper cables, a blanket and a basic first aid kit.

### Shopping and Public Awareness

- When shopping during the holiday season or any time of the year park in well-lit areas and avoid walking to your car alone at night.
- Keep valuables and packages out of sight; ideally in the trunk.
- Be cautious of online scams. Avoid clicking on suspicious links in emails or messages, as these could lead to phishing attempts or malicious sites.

### Hosting Parties

- If you are hosting a party monitor alcohol consumption and supervise children and pets.
- Never let impaired guests drive; arrange transportation or accommodations as needed.

The holiday season is a special time of the year to connect with friends, neighbors and the community.

Through generosity and being mindful about safety, we can improve the quality of life for others and ourselves.

*I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season!*

## Celebrating Bethel Park's 90+ Club

Since 2004, the Municipality of Bethel Park has proudly recognized residents age 90 and older through the **90+ Club**. Today, **Mayor Jack Allen's** 90+ Club has grown to more than 140 members, each receiving birthday and Christmas cards from Mayor Allen and invitations to the annual October luncheon.

The luncheon is a cherished tradition, offering members not only a delicious meal but also camaraderie, guest speakers, gift bags, and door prizes. It's a joyful celebration of longevity, community, and the remarkable lives of Bethel Park's seniors.

This year marked the 21st Annual 90+ Club Luncheon, held at the Bethel Park Community Center. The event was made possible thanks to the generosity of local sponsors and donors:

- Catered by: **The Fresh Fork Café**
- Cookies donated by: **Bethel Bakery**
- Ice cream & mums donated by: **Flora Garden Center**
- Coffee donated by: **Dunkin Donuts**
- Sponsors: **All Pro Plumbing & Heating, Evey True Value Hardware**, and the **Bethel Park Community Foundation**

Together, these contributions created a warm and memorable day for Bethel Park's most senior residents.

If you or someone you know is a Bethel Park resident age 90 or older, consider joining the 90+ Club. New members are always welcome. For more information or to join, contact **Janet Davin** at **412 831 6800, x211** or email **jdavin@bethelparkpa.gov**.



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Support 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.

### Municipal Small Business Initiatives

To provide support, the Municipality established numerous initiatives geared towards raising awareness of all that the Bethel Park business community has to offer.

- A **"Dine, Shop, Support"** website page listing businesses that expressed an interest in participating with their contact information and business descriptions.
- A **Business Blog** featuring profiles of local business owners.
- **Mayor Jack Allen's BPTV show, "Jack of All Trades,"** found on YouTube featuring local business people.
- **Job Fairs FREE** to employers and job seekers in conjunction with the Bethel Park Chamber. Visit [www.bethelparkpa.gov/jobfair](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov/jobfair) for more information!
- **Special events** geared towards supporting local businesses.



### Are You a Local Business Owner?

We are now restarting our local business profiles for our business blog! We'll be contacting all those who've shown interest in being profiled. And, if you'd like to be considered for a feature too, or be listed on the Municipality's 'Dine Shop Support' webpage, please email: [kweightman@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:kweightman@bethelparkpa.gov).

## Chamber News

### Salute to Veterans & Paws for Vets

The Bethel Park Chamber hosted its annual "Salute to Veterans" luncheon on Nov. 7 at the Bethel Park Community Center. We had 75 attendees including three dogs! Rowdy BBQ cooked up another amazing lunch! Bethel Park Council President **John Oakes** did the Invocation and **Senator Robinson** was the speaker. The Chamber wants to thank the Municipal staff for their extra work in accommodating the luncheon and especially **Haya Eason** for her help with setup.

Please note that we still have funding in place to provide **companion dogs for veterans** covering initial expenses. If you have a veteran that needs a canine companion please let us know.

### Holiday Tree Time in Bethel Park

We are once again working with Bethel Park School District Clubs on our annual Tree Lighting in the High School lobby. There are currently 21 trees decorated by High School Clubs. Consider stopping by and purchasing a raffle ticket to win one! All proceeds benefit the High School clubs.

### Networking At Chamber Chatter

Networking Every second Thursday of each month at Dunkin Donuts on South Park Road (*next to post office*) from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Come and join your fellow workers for FREE coffee and donuts and expand your network. Register at [www.bpcchamber.org](http://www.bpcchamber.org)

### Tribute to Our Sponsors - It Is Not Possible Without You!!

We want to thank all of our sponsors this year who have supported our events and have given back to the community through their generosity.



Our first **Women's Conference** was a success with the following sponsor support:

**Premier Sponsors:** Brookside Lumber and the Observer-Reporter  
**Supporting Sponsors:** Penn & Webb PLLC; Wes Banco-Frank Corrado; Blue Sky Closing Services, Inc; Keller Williams Realty-Cindy Rack; Diane Irey Vaughan-City Mission; Dollar Bank-Jim Lombardo; and Artis Senior Living of South Hills.

Special Thank You to **Huntington Billboards** for the digital sign and **Cusumano Insurance Agency** for sponsoring the facility.

To the **speakers** who gave great information, we thank you for making it all so informational, offering great networking and enjoyable - **Elena LaQuatra** (Channel 4) and **Diane Irey** (City Mission).

Our **star panel:** **Terri Miller** (CBD Wellness Store), **Diane Ford** (Melting Pot Ministries/Ranes), **Anna Marie Kjanka** (New York Life), and **Natalie Gloady** (Reimagine Main Street).

Our special segments: **Denise Galloni** (DG Training Solutions) and **Jody Salerno** (Elite Firearms & Training).

Every topic from stress and personal time, care giving with all generations, surviving and retirement, self-defense, networking, digital marketing, and wellness - it all was covered!

And a special shout out to **Nikki Dowd** and her generous grand prize from her travel company "Get Your Beach on Travel."

We're looking forward to an exciting and productive 2026 at the Chamber! Have a wonderful holiday season!

# Stay in the Know with BPTV!



Tune in every Monday for "The Bethel Park Minute," a brief newscast that gives you valuable information about what's going on in Bethel Park. The Bethel Park Minute is the fastest and easiest way to stay informed!

For our broadcast channels, check out the **Community Bulletin Board** for notifications from area organizations about upcoming events and programs.

If your organization would like to post a not-for-profit announcement, please send a brief notice to [dcable@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:dcable@bethelparkpa.gov) and we'll add it to our channel.

## More Ways to Watch

BPTV, there's an app for that! Just go to your favorite app store and download the **Cablecast** app and select "Bethel Park Public Access" to gain access to all of our great content right on your favorite mobile device. It's just that easy!



## Fall & Winter Volunteers



If you're looking for a quality activity during the upcoming winter season, stop by BPTV and make your own content or volunteer to help with our existing line-up of shows.

We offer flexible hours and plenty of opportunities to get creative.

If you or your students are interested, contact BPTV at **412-831-3304** or via email at [dcable@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:dcable@bethelparkpa.gov).

## Municipal Social Media Contact Information



[www.bethelparkpa.gov](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov)

**Facebook:** Municipality of Bethel Park

**X (formerly Twitter):** @Bethelpark\_PA

**Instagram:** @BethelParkPA

**TikTok:** bethelparkpa



VISIT OUR INFORMATIVE WEBSITE!

- Better Navigation
- Ease of Finding Information
- New Resident Page
- More Responsive

LOG ON TODAY!



[WWW.BETHELPARKPA.GOV](http://WWW.BETHELPARKPA.GOV)

# Shop Small. Shop Local. Shop Bethel Park.

**LET'S SUPPORT BETHEL PARK BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**



## WHY SHOP LOCAL?

Every purchase fuels local jobs

Unique gifts you won't find anywhere else

Dollars stay in Bethel Park, building a stronger future



**Celebrate the Holidays and Shop Local All Season Long!**



**WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF CHRONICLES COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX EARLY FEBRUARY!**

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADVERTISE, CONTACT HAYA EASON AT [HEASON@BETHELPARKPA.GOV](mailto:HEASON@BETHELPARKPA.GOV).**





# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## 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 initiatives and community programs in the following 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 via mail at **PO Box 811, Bethel Park, PA 15102.**

Did you know that the Bethel Park Community Foundation is a tax-deductible non-profit organization? What better way to support the Bethel Park Police, Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company, Tri-Community South EMS, and a wide range of other community-focused activities than through one tax-deductible check to the Bethel Park Community Foundation.

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

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

Please also 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). **Your tax-deductible contributions at work in our community!**



## 'Bethel Bounty' a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who supported and attended our Bethel Bounty event! It once again sold out and was truly a memorable evening. Special thanks to our **Platinum Sponsors: Artis Senior Living of South Hills, Britney Hollick Insurance, Glora Park Garden Center, Hess Physical Therapy, Baird Investments, Santel Landscaping, Highpoint Fitness, All Pro Plumbing, and Staley Electric Inc.** and our **Diamond Sponsors: Become Better Fitness, Brentwood Bank, Bethel Bakery, and Evey True Value Hardware.** The generosity of these sponsors helps make Bethel's Bounty possible and supports our community in such a meaningful way!



### YOU CAN NOW DONATE VIA THE UNITED WAY



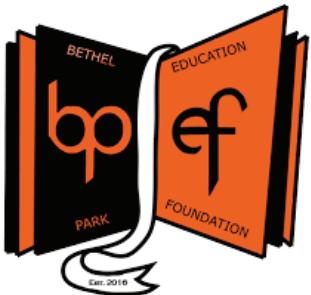
YOU MAY DESIGNATE THE BPCF AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR UNITED WAY DONATION. ENTER YOUR CONTRIBUTOR'S CHOICE AGENCY CODE AS: #892191.

### FACEBOOK

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



# EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The Bethel Park Education Foundation is a community-based, non-profit organization, whose goal is to support programs that promote quality education. The Foundation works to facilitate communication and involvement among students, parents, school staff, business leaders, and community citizens. The Bethel Park 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.

Watch for our 2026 meeting schedule in the February issue of Chronicles!



## The Bethel Park Education Foundation Seeks to:

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

### INNOVATION

Innovation implies transformation from the status quo.

### TEACHER GRANTS

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

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

School improvement means making schools better places for learning.

### STUDENT GRANTS

Student grants support excellence in education and envision the student as a lifelong learner intellectually, physically and artistically.

### MISSION

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

### DONATE VIA UNITED WAY



You can designate the Bethel Park Education Foundation as the recipient of your United Way donation! Enter your Contributor's Choice Agency Code as **#12998472**.



### BOARD

President Pam Dobos  
 Vice President Dave Brown  
 Secretary Patti Campbell  
 Treasurer Pam Tiano  
 Andy Amrhein  
 Lindsay Crowley  
 Deb Luckasevic  
 Kim Walsh Turner  
 Dr. James Walsh  
 Michael Walsh  
 Courtney Williams  
 John Lorenzi

301 Church Rd.  
 Bethel Park, PA 15102  
 412-760-9614

[www.bpsd.org](http://www.bpsd.org)  
 bpfoundation@gmail.com

# MUNICIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION

## Quick Reference Guide



Bethel Park Municipality has full-time staff members who attend Council meetings to assist in the meeting conduct and answer Council questions. Those usually in attendance are listed below (*All numbers with extensions are 412-831-6800; specific extensions & other numbers are listed below*):

### ADMINISTRATION:

5100 W. Library Ave.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Kristen Denne, Municipal Manager  
Jahd Burns, Assistant Manager  
Lisa Lapaglia, Finance Director  
Susan Dolinar, Public Works Director  
David Rudolph, Code Enforcement Officer  
Jason Mentel, Recreation Director 412-851-2910

Visit us online at [www.bethelparkpa.gov](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov).

x137  
x201  
x210  
x301  
x240

**OTHER IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL NUMBERS:**  
Emergency (Fire, Police, EMS) 412-833-2000  
Main Municipality Office Number 412-831-6800  
Receptionist 412-831-6800 x0  
Bethel Park Community Center 412-851-2910  
Bethel Park Public Library 412-835-2207  
EMS (*non-emergency*) 412-831-3710  
Fire Department (*non-emergency*):  
Brightwood Station 412-835-1127  
Fire Prevention Unit 412-835-3473  
Recreation 412-831-1328  
BPTV 412-831-3304  
Jordan Tax Service 412-835-5243



## Meet Some of Bethel Park's Newest Businesses!



### BETHEL PARK MAYOR & MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



Jack Allen  
Mayor



John Oakes  
President



Joseph Consolmagno  
Vice President



Kim Kamenicky



Todd Cenci



Joe Janosik



Jim Jenkins



Dave Espinar



Viola Garis



Lindsay Flinn

**Jack T. Allen**  
Mayor  
412-848-0906

**John Oakes**  
President  
Ward 3  
412-595-7750

**Joseph A. Consolmagno**  
Vice President  
Ward 1  
412-303-3386

**Kim Kamenicky**  
Ward 2  
412-523-9967

**Todd Cenci**  
Ward 4  
412-357-0045

**Joe Janosik**  
Ward 5  
412-328-6563

**Jim Jenkins**  
Ward 6  
412-389-9838

**Dave Espinar**  
Ward 7  
412-780-5486

**Viola Garis**  
Ward 8  
267-670-1768

**Lindsay Flinn**  
Ward 9  
412-568-3281



South Hills Village  
South Hills Village  
Library Rd.  
Library Rd.  
Donati Rd.  
Industrial Blvd.  
Library Rd.  
Washington Rd.  
Corrigan Dr.  
Library Rd.  
Fort Couch Rd.  
Fort Couch Rd.  
Library Rd.  
South Park Rd.  
Cool Springs Dr.  
South Hills Village  
Donati Rd.  
South Park Rd.  
Fort Couch Rd.  
South Park Rd.  
Brightwood Rd.  
North Highland Rd.  
Fort Couch Rd.  
Progress Ct.  
Brush Run Rd.  
Fort Couch Rd.  
Oxford Dr.

WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE ON YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK!



Welcome!

# WINTER 2025-2026



# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

## BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

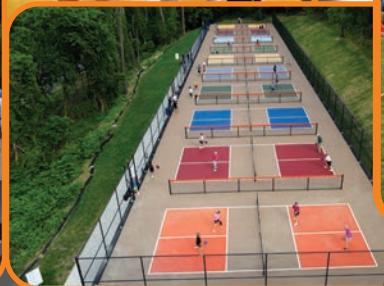
5151 Park Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Phone: 412-851-2910

Register online at: [www.bethelparkpa.gov](http://www.bethelparkpa.gov)  
Contact us: [recreation@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:recreation@bethelparkpa.gov)  
Recreation Office hours:  
Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 412-831-1328

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE:

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**PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION.  
PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH  
FEBRUARY 2025.**



## Thank you for an Amazing Year!

As 2025 winds down, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in Bethel Park's Recreation programs this year.

Whether you joined a fitness class, attended a community event, cheered from the sidelines, or volunteered your time, we appreciate your energy, enthusiasm, and neighborly spirit you brought to every activity.

Together, we've built on solid traditions while introducing fresh programs that brought new energy to our parks and facilities. From seasonal favorites to exciting new offerings, 2025 was a year

of connection, creativity, and community and we're just getting started.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to continue the classes and events you enjoy while introducing new programs designed to further connect and energize Bethel Park and beyond.

From expanded youth activities to creative adult workshops and inclusive family fun, next year promises to be our most dynamic yet.

Thank you for making 2025 a success! We can't wait for all the fun in store for 2026!

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION



## HOW TO REGISTER

Registrations will now primarily be online only. Please go to [bethelpark.recdesk.com](http://bethelpark.recdesk.com) for more information on all our programs, activities and to register.

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

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

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

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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

## WHEN PROGRAMS BEGIN

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

## WHEN FEES ARE DUE

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

## INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

## RETURNED CHECKS

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

## RESIDENCY INFORMATION

All Bethel Park residents are given preference in registering for programs offered in this 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 for a grouped session. For a one-time class or session, a 24-hour written request will be required. Phone requests will not be accepted, nor does failure to attend a class constitute notification of intent to withdraw from a class.

A credit can also be applied to any non-contractual Recreation program(s) instead of a refund if the individual so desires; please specify in your written request. Exceptions for refunds or credits include special ticket sales and non-refundable programs/activities. All refunds are subject to a **service fee of \$5.**

All requests need to be in writing or sent to: [recreation@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:recreation@bethelparkpa.gov).

## NON-ATTENDANCE/NON-PARTICIPATION:

Non-attendance or non-participation in summer camp does not entitle the patron to a refund or credit.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Bethel Park Community Center Memberships and Bethel Park Splash Park Memberships are not eligible for any refund or transfers.

## 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.**

## USE OF PHOTOS

Bethel Park Recreation provides opportunities for positive publicity by photographing/videotaping patrons at programs for use in local publications, newspapers, and/or television. If you prefer that you and/or your child **not be** photographed for publicity purposes, please notify Bethel Park Recreation in writing upon registration.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

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

## CONDUCT

Participants are reminded that undesirable behavior or destruction of any property are reasons to expel the offender from a class or program. Parents are

asked to remind children that they should not be in other areas of any building and to respect School District and Municipal property.

## NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

**The only time you will hear from us is:**

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

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

## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Bill Bonaccorsi  
Christina Murgaugh  
Kristen Normile  
Mary Lynn Mack  
Russ Spicuzza  
Tarian Boscia  
Jennifer Mills



### Monthly Meetings

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

### Department Administration

Jason Mentel, Recreation Director  
Lindsey Sibert, Assistant Recreation Director  
Sarah Komatsu, Events Coordinator  
Amber Armstrong, Administrative Secretary

Kristen Denne, Municipal Manager  
Dr. James Walsh, School Superintendent  
Barry Christensen, School District Liaison  
Jim Jenkins, Council Liaison  
Lindsay Flinn, Council Liaison  
Viola Garis, Council Liaison





# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



### KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Children will have great fun learning new baking techniques from Jessica Gombar of The Pie Place! Supplies, ingredients, and recipes are all included. Participants will learn hands-on and will have the opportunity to make cakes, cookies, and pies, as well as some tasty and savory items. Please be sure to indicate any special needs or food allergies upon registration. Children may bring an apron, if desired. Ages: 6 - 10

**Resident Fee: \$175.00** Non-Res Fee: \$185.00  
6 session dates

3835.401  
Dates: 1/07/2026 – 2/11/2026  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

### SUPERSTAR THEATER FOR YOUNG ACTORS/ACTRESSES

Calling all young stars—whether you're brand new to the stage or already have some spotlight experience! In Superstar Theater, students will dive into the exciting world of acting through imaginative improv games that spark creativity and build confidence. They'll explore character development, practice voice projection and enunciation, and learn essential theater terms and stage directions in a fun, supportive environment. As the class progresses, students will put their skills into action by rehearsing short skits and a final play, which they'll proudly perform for family and friends on the last day of class. Get ready to shine on stage!

**Instructor:** Adam Winter

Ages: 7 - 12  
**Resident Fee: \$60.00** Non-Res Fee: \$65.00  
6 session dates

3835.402  
Dates: 1/8/2026 – 2/12/2026  
Time: 6:30PM - 7:30PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

### THE KNIGHT SCHOOL PITTSBURGH (CHESS)

The Knight School Chess Team is your school's official chess team and chess party. The Knight School's approach has had amazing success because our unique and unprecedented educational philosophy, "the chess party," is the perfect way to transform a complete beginner into an enthusiastic and engaged chess player! In this kid-centered classroom environment, we teach our kids every cool trick, strategy, and tactic in chessdom and our kids soon learn to love and master chess, their classroom, sports, and their home lives as well! Upon enrollment, new students receive a TKS T-Shirt, chess set, chess bag, and all the colorful TactixBands they can earn!

Ages: 5 - 11  
**Resident Fee: \$141.00** Non-Res Fee: \$151.00  
6 session dates

3835.400  
Dates: 1/6/2026 – 2/10/2026  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:15PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

### SCIENCE



### MAD SCIENCE BRIXOLOGY: CREATURES VS MACHINES!

In Brixology, students will use unique Mad Science designed LEGO® kits to build a different engineering-themed project in every class! They will use critical thinking, cooperation, and creative problem-solving to test and improve your creations! Each class will revolve around a different engineering theme - including mechanical, structural, and nautical engineering. This session's theme: Creatures vs Machines!

Ages: 5 - 12  
**Resident Fee: \$40.00** Non-Res Fee: \$45.00  
1 session date

3840.401  
Dates: 1/16/2026  
Time: 9:30AM - 12:30PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center

## ARTS & CRAFTS

### CANVAS CRAZINESS

Super fun art creations of the season including animals of all kinds! All supplies included except your awesome imagination! Acrylic painting on canvas with new themes each class! All supplies included and dress to get messy!

**Instructor:** Ren Hartman

Ages: 5 - 15  
**Resident Fee: \$89.00** Non-Res Fee: \$94.00  
4 session dates

3805.400  
Dates: 1/15/2026 – 2/26/2026  
Time: 6:00PM – 7:00PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center  
**No Class:** Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 19

### CARTOONING WORKSHOP



Silly and fun drawings along with your awesome imagination! We will even tell jokes and share our funny characters in class! All supplies included! Fun cartoons of the season including funny animals and silly characters!

**Instructor:** Ren Hartman

Ages: 5 - 15  
**Resident Fee: \$89.00** Non-Res Fee: \$94.00  
4 session dates

3805.401  
Dates: 1/15/2026 – 2/26/2026  
Time: 7:15PM – 8:15PM

**Location:** Bethel Park Community Center  
**No Class:** Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 19



**DANCE****SOUTH HILL STARS - SPECIAL NEEDS COLOR GUARD**

It is open for anyone to join no matter what abilities you may have. Learn to spin flags, use swing flags, twirl ribbons, dance with pom-poms and hoops, and show off your talents when we perform as a group.

Ages: 10 and over

**Resident Fee: \$47.00** Non-Res Fee: \$52.00  
11 session dates

3810.406

Dates: 2/23/2026 – 5/18/2026  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Mon

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

**No Class: March 16, April 6**

**MOVE AND GROOVE WITH 2'S**

Come and discover the world of movement and expression with your toddler. This class blends exercise with dance, music, and imagination to enhance motor skills, balance, and coordination, while also creating a fun bonding experience between parent and child. The instructor will guide the parent/tot team in a way that makes discovering movement, balance, and listening skills easy and fun. These classes are a great way to enrich and entertain kids while also allowing parents and caregivers to socialize. It's a win-win for all ages! Please wear comfortable clothing that is easy to move in.

Ages: 16 months – 3 years

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

3810.401

Dates: 1/5/2026 – 2/9/2026  
Time: 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Mon

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL YOUTH BASKETBALL SPONSORS**

**Denillo**  
Heating & Cooling  
“The Only GUY To Call”®  
**412-885-2356**  
[www.denillo.com](http://www.denillo.com)

**MIKE B & SON CONSTRUCTION**  
Pittsburghs Specialists in:  
CONCRETE WORK • RETAINING WALLS • EXCAVATION  
**412-531-1229**

GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

**FIT & FUN****★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★****GIRLS GROW STRONG!**

A fun and empowering 45-minute class designed just for girls ages 7-12! Each week we will focus on a new theme – leg strength, full body, upper body, agility, and core – helping young girls build strength, confidence, and healthy habits that last. Through guided workouts, upbeat music, and a supportive environment, girls will learn proper movement, feel stronger inside and out, and celebrate progress together!

Ages: 7 - 12

**Resident Fee: \$80.00** Non-Res Fee: \$85.00  
6 session dates3820.402  
Dates: 1/05/2026 – 2/09/2026  
Time: 7:00PM – 7:45PM

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

**CHILDREN'S BEGINNER KARATE - TANG SOO DO**

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

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

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

Ages: 6 - 13

**Resident Fee: \$65.00** Non-Res Fee: \$70.00  
6 session dates3820.400  
Dates: 1/10/2026 - 2/14/2026  
Time: 10:30AM – 11:30AMLocation: C.S. Kim Karate  
4705 Library Rd Ste 2  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

**SPORTS****★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★****ATHLETE ACADEMY  
(YOUTH ACADEMY)**

Perfect for young athletes looking to improve their speed, agility, and strength. This program is guaranteed to build confidence all while learning mind/body awareness in a fun and supportive environment. Registration fee covers 1-3 classes per week (Tues, Thurs, Sat), so book as often or as little works with your schedule!

Ages: 7 - 11

**Resident Fee: \$130.00** Non-Res Fee: \$140.00  
Up to 18 session dates3815.418  
Dates: 1/06/2026 – 2/14/2026  
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM  
Time: 10:00AM – 11:00AMTue, Thu  
SatLocation: Athlete Academy PGH  
395 Logan Rd.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102**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.

Ages: 10 and over

**Resident Fee: \$61.00** Non-Res Fee: \$66.00  
6 session dates3815.412  
Dates: 1/8/2026 – 2/12/2026  
Time: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Thu

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

**ADVANCED FOIL FENCING**

Take your fencing to a new level!

This instructional class focuses on techniques, fitness, and a winning strategy to help the dedicated fencer succeed at an advanced competitive level in this martial art. Sessions include instruction and practice bouts. Prerequisites include a minimum of 1 year of fencing experience and approval of the instructors.

**Note:** All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors - students will be required to wear comfortable pants and non-marking athletic shoes.



Shorts or jeans are not permitted.

Ages: 10 and over

**Resident Fee: \$84.00** Non-Res Fee: \$89.00  
6 session dates3815.413  
Dates: 1/8/2026 – 2/12/2026  
Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Thu

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

**BEGINNER FOIL FENCING – AGES 7, 8, 9 – LEVEL 1**

Learn the fun and challenging Olympic sport of foil fencing in an aged appropriate setting. NOTE: This class format is specifically designed for youth aged 7, 8, or 9. The introductory and intermediate level instruction establishes & builds upon fundamental skills while incorporating exercise needed for successful fencing while both learning and having fun. Sessions will include conditioning, instruction, and practice bouts.

**Note:** All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors. Students will be required to wear comfortable pants, non-marking athletic shoes, and bring an appropriately sized full fingered glove which will protect the hand and wrist (a gardening glove or batting glove often work well). Please note: shorts or jeans are not permitted. Coaches also will have a fencing glove for sale if students wish to purchase one for \$20 (full fingered glove with Velcro cuff, suitable for competition. Subject to availability).

Ages: 7, 8, 9

**Resident Fee: \$61.00** Non-Res Fee: \$66.00  
6 session dates3815.410  
Dates: 1/6/2026 – 2/10/2026  
Time: 6:00PM - 6:55PM

Tue

Location: Bethel Park Community Center

**\*SATURDAY CLASSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

## BEGINNER FOIL FENCING AGES 7, 8, 9 – LEVEL 2

This class is designed as a progression for young fencers (aged 7, 8, or 9 years of age), who have taken the “Beginner Foil Fencing (Level 1)” class at least twice or otherwise can demonstrate to the instructor their ability to progress to this class. The class format will be smaller in nature to allow more age-appropriate instruction of additional concepts presented in Step 1. Sessions will include conditioning, instruction, and practice bouts. More time will be devoted to fencing specific drills and boutting. Young fencers will still have the opportunity for some fun time during practice. **Note:** Students will be required to wear comfortable pants, non-marking athletic shoes, and bring an appropriately sized full fingered glove which will protect the hand and wrist (*a gardening glove or batting glove often work well. Students are to wear athletic clothing that covers the whole leg (sweat pants or gym pants)*). Shorts are not permitted. All essential equipment will be provided by the instructors, but fencers who wish to continue to develop are encouraged to begin to purchase their own personal equipment. Coaches can assist with this process for those who are interested.

Ages: 7, 8, 9

**Resident Fee: \$61.00**  
6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$66.00

3815.411

Dates: 1/6/2026 – 2/10/2026  
Time: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Tue

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



## BEGINNER GYMNASTICS

The beginner gymnast will learn basic stretching, balance, and tumbling skills in a fun and safe environment. Small-scale apparatus will be used to introduce the beam, bars, and vault. Participants should wear any comfortable athletic clothing, no socks or loose shirts. Coach Christina Mozes has experience teaching beginning through competitive-level gymnastics and enjoys helping each child reach their potential.

**Resident Fee: \$54.00**  
6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$59.00

Age: 5 - 9

3815.416  
Dates: 1/06/2026 – 2/10/2026  
Time: 5:00PM – 5:45PM

Tue

Age: 3 - 5

3815.417  
Dates: 1/08/2026 – 2/12/2026  
Time: 11:15AM – 12:00PM

Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

**GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.**

## MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER - INTERMEDIATE

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. No equipment of any kind is required. Just sign up and play. Here are some highlights of the program:

**Curriculum** – Mighty Kicks serves over 4000 children yearly using an age-appropriate methodology including games, drills, exercises, stories with pictures and more!

**Coaching** – All classes will be led by Coach Sam, highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice High School Boys' Soccer Team with 20+ years of experience coaching youth sports.

**Coach Sam** is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field.

Ages: 5 - 10

**Resident Fee: \$79.00**  
6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$84.00

3815.414  
Dates: 1/06/2026 - 2/10/2026  
Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Tue

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



## MIGHTY KICKS SOCCER CLASSIC

Children will learn the skills, moves, rules, and joy of playing America's most popular youth sport! Mighty Kicks is designed to encourage young children to build a healthy lifestyle, and offers a high-energy, fun program helping children develop coordination and confidence and utilize their physical energy in a positive way. Coach Sam Bellin is a former standout college soccer player at the University of Georgia and highly successful Head Coach of Allderdice Boys High School soccer. Here are some highlights of the program:

**Curriculum** – Mighty Kicks Classic is designed for children ages 3 – 6 to learn how to play and enjoy the great sport of soccer! Games and activities are age-appropriate and focus on players getting as many touches on the ball and as much movement as possible. Each child will have their own ball for most activities – no laps, no lines, no lectures! Perfect for beginners or intermediate.

**Coaching** – All of your classes will be led by **Coach Sam**, well-respected and much-liked for his 20+ years of relentlessly positive, high-energy, child-centered and expert sports coaching. Coach Sam is well known for combining top notch sports instruction with a fun program that helps children develop character and confidence on and off the field

Ages: 3 - 6

**Resident Fee: \$69.00**  
6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$74.00

3815.415  
Dates: 1/09/2026 - 2/13/2026  
Time: 10:00AM - 10:30AM

Fri

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**BETHEL PARK SUMMER CAMP**

**JUNE 15- AUG 14**

**9am- 4pm**

**WEEKLY THEMES, SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, FIELD TRIPS, AND DAILY FUN!**

**REGISTRATION OPENS 2.2.2026**

**WWW.BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM**

The poster features a sun, balloons, and three happy children (two girls, one boy) in a park setting. The Bethel Park Recreation logo is in the top right. The text is in a playful, colorful font.



**TIES & Tiaras**

**BETHEL PARK RECREATION**

**Our beloved Father Daughter tradition returns on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, with two available time slots!**

**\$30 per couple 3 PM - 5 PM**

**\$10 per additional daughter - or - 6 PM - 8 PM**

**Register *in-person* at the Bethel Park Community Center**

**Bethel Park Residents registration starts December 8th**

**Registration for all others starts December 15th**

The poster features a background of a father and daughter in formal attire. The text is in a large, elegant font. A bouquet of flowers is at the bottom left.

# YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS



**Bethel Park Travel Basketball**  
<https://www.bpbasketball.com/>

**Bethel Park Baseball**  
[www.bethelparkbaseball.org/](http://www.bethelparkbaseball.org/)  
**Spring Rec registration** will open Dec. 1 and close Feb. 15.  
**Spring Rec season** will run from early April to mid-June



**Bethel Park Junior Football**  
<https://sports.bluesombrero.com/bpjf>

**Bethel Park Soccer Association**  
[www.bpsoccer.org](http://www.bpsoccer.org)

**Bethel Park Junior Cheerleaders**  
<https://sports.bluesombrero.com/bjprhawkettes>  
 Registrations are open in March and April

**Bethel Park Slow Pitch Association**  
<https://www.facebook.com/bpgirlssoftball>



**Bethel Park Rec Swim Team**  
**BPR Swim Team**  
*"Success is Tradition"*

Since 1963, the Bethel Park Rec Swim Team (BPR) has brought the sport of swimming to local athletes of all ages and experience levels. We provide a full range of swim-based offerings throughout the calendar year, including:

- \*A year-round USA Swimming-affiliated competitive swim club
- \*A year-round pre-competitive development training group (Sharks)
- \*A recreational-based summer league team for swimmers of all skill levels ages 6 - 14
- \*Private and group introductory swim lessons

We are proud to continue serving our community by providing our athletes an opportunity to succeed in and out of the pool through hard work, dedication, teamwork, and personal growth. Visit our website at [bprswim.org](http://bprswim.org) to learn more and for registration opportunities.



# THANK YOU

The Award-Winning Bethel Park High School Music Department and Music Boosters would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to the Community for your continued support of our hoagie sales.

The Music Department is planning to travel to Pigeon Forge, TN in the Spring of 2026!

Dates for our hoagie sales include:

**Dec. 6**  
**Feb. 7**  
**March 28**

Stay up to date and bookmark our Music Department website – [bpsdmusic.weebly.com](http://bpsdmusic.weebly.com) and the Music Booster website – [bpmusicboosters.com](http://bpmusicboosters.com).



## Your Passion. Their Inspiration.

Lead a class at the  
 Bethel Park  
 Community Center!  
 Cooking, crafts,  
 stories, skills –  
 whatever you love,  
 others will too. We'll  
 help make it happen.



Call (412) 831-1328 or email  
[Recreation@BethelParkPA.gov](mailto:Recreation@BethelParkPA.gov)  
 and share your idea for a new program.

# ADULT PROGRAMS



## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

### ORGANIZE YOUR PRINTED AND DIGITAL PHOTOS

Come and join us for an educational presentation on how to Calm the Chaos of your printed and digital photo collections!

Instructor: **Lisa Webster**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$19.00**

1 session date

3935.400

Dates: 1/29/2026

Time: 5:30PM - 7:45PM

Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

## FITNESS & EXERCISE

### 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. 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.

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$42.00**

6 session dates

3920.405

Dates: 1/7/2026 - 2/11/2026

Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

Wed

3920.406

Dates: 1/8/2026 - 2/12/2026

Time: 10:00AM - 10:45AM

Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



### POWER YOGA

Power Yoga is a fusion class of classic yoga poses blended with Pilates components. We harmonize the strength building elements of Pilates with the fluidity and mindfulness of yoga. Challenge your body as we focus on core stability, flexibility and breath awareness. This class offers a balanced approach to enhance your overall well-being and will leave you feeling centered and energized! Bring a mat, towel and water.

Instructor: **Christi Fredrick**

Ages: 16 and over

**Resident Fee: \$49.00**

**Twice a Week: \$69.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$54.00

Non-Res Fee: \$74.00

3920.411

Dates: 1/5/2026 - 2/9/2026

Time: 7:00PM - 8:10PM

Mon

3920.412

Dates: 1/7/2026 - 2/11/2026

Time: 6:30PM - 7:40PM

Wed

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

★ NEW! NEW! NEW! ★

### CHISEL & SCULPT

Sculpt and define your body using a powerful combination of light-to-moderate weights, body weight exercises & a Pilates ring. This class focuses on slow, controlled movements to build muscular endurance and create a lean physique. With a focus on form and proper muscle engagement, you'll get a full-body workout that's low-impact and easy on the joints, making it the perfect way to build strength and improve coordination. Pilates rings can be purchased on Amazon or a local retailer. Please bring water, a small towel, heavier weights if desired, a fitness mat and Pilates ring.

Instructor: **Christi Fredrick**

Ages: 16 and over

**Resident Fee: \$35.00**

Non-Res Fee: \$40.00

6 session dates

3920.410

Dates: 1/5/2026 - 2/9/2026

Time: 6:00PM - 6:45PM

Mon

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**ZUMBA® GOLD***Let's make 2026 your year!*

You've been talking about trying Zumba at the Bethel Park Community Center for over 17 years, and now is the perfect time to start.

Come join your neighbors, friends, and family by taking a Zumba class this year. The class is designed with easy-to-follow choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. Get ready to sweat and prepare to leave feeling empowered and strong!

This class focuses on all elements of fitness: cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance.

Instructor: **Kathy Raeder**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$42.00**

**Twice a Week: \$64.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$47.00

Non-Res Fee: \$69.00

3920.400

Dates: 1/6/2026 – 2/10/2026

Time: 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Tue

3920.401

Dates: 1/7/2026 – 02/11/2026

Time: 9:30AM – 10:30AM

Wed

3920.402

Dates: 1/8/2026 – 2/12/2026

Time: 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Thu

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.**

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

**ZUMBA® GOLD FOR ACTIVE SENIORS**

*Make 2026 your year by trying Zumba at the Bethel Park Community Center!*

It's time to join your neighbors, friends, and family in a Zumba class for all ages and abilities. What's the difference you ask? This class offers the same easy-to-follow choreography focusing on balance, range of motion, and coordination.

You'll sweat and leave feeling empowered and strong. The class covers all fitness elements: cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility, and balance. BUT, is more geared to an Active older adult or beginner who is looking for a modified Zumba® class that recreates the original moves at a lower-intensity.

Instructor: **Kathy Raeder**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$32.00**

**Twice a Week: \$54.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$37.00

Non-Res Fee: \$59.00

3920.403

Dates: 1/5/2026 – 2/9/2026

Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

Mon

3920.404

Dates: 1/7/2026 – 2/11/2026

Time: 10:35AM - 11:15AM

Wed

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**LifeSpan**  
YOUR PARTNER IN AGING

**LIFESPAN  
ACTIVE LIFE CENTER**

Adults aged 60+ are welcome to attend our daily programming.

Monday - Friday  
9 AM – 3 PM

Call **412-831-7111** for information.

**GOLD CARD CLUB**

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

**Dues/Eligibility:** Annual membership dues are \$6 per person per calendar year, Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Annual dues shall be paid beginning at the January general meeting. Renewals paid after March 31 incur a late penalty fee. **New members, who MUST be current residents of Bethel Park in order to join the Gold Card Club, are welcome to join at any time during the calendar year.**

**Meetings/Luncheons:** 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, members enjoy excellent entertainment, light refreshments, and several games of bingo. We have an indoor summer picnic each year, as well as an Anniversary luncheon and a Christmas luncheon, both held at outside banquet facilities.

**Trips/Bowling:** Club members may take advantage of the many bus trips scheduled through the year by Cindy Carfagno. Some of our club members have become members of the bowling league that meets on Mondays from August through April. **(Call Tom Noonan at 412-913-2942 for more information on bowling.)**

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

Questions regarding membership or bus trips should be directed to **Cindy Carfagno at 412-831-1913 or t2323c@comcast.net.**

**T'AI-CHI BEGINNER**

This traditional Yang Tai-Chi Chuan is for the beginning student as well as the student who wants to work on the first 1/3 of the form.

In this class you will learn the principles in order to develop better balance, coordination and posture.

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

Instructor: **Tamara**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$70.00**

6 session dates

3920.407

Dates: 1/7/2026 – 02/18/2026

Time: 09:30AM - 10:30AM

Wed

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Jan. 14**

**T'AI-CHI INTERMEDIATE**

This class is designed for students who have previous experience in a Tai Chi class and want to further their knowledge and experience.

Students will work on postures past the first third of the form. Instructor recommendation is required to enroll in this course.

Instructor: **Tamara**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$70.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$75.00

3920.408

Dates: 1/7/2026 – 2/18/2026

Time: 10:45AM - 11:45AM

Wed

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Jan. 14**

**SENSE HANDS**

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

Instructor recommendation is required to attend this course.

Instructor: **Tamara**

Ages: 18 and over

**Resident Fee: \$61.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$66.00

3920.409

Dates: 1/9/2026 – 2/20/2026

Time: 9:30AM – 10:30AM

Fri

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**  
**No Class: Jan. 16**



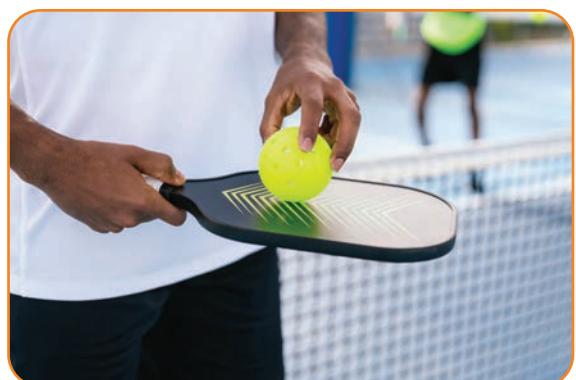
Watch for the next issue of  
Chronicles arriving in your  
mailbox early February 2026!

Happy Holidays!



GO TO [BETHELPAK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPAK.RECDESK.COM)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO  
REGISTER.

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

**SPORTS****PICKLEBALL**

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. Experience is required. Instructions are not provided.

**REGISTRATION INFO:** Registration is open to RESIDENTS ONLY December 8, 9:00 AM.

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

Ages: 13 and over

**Resident Fee: \$45.00**

6 session dates

Non-Res Fee: \$50.00

3915.400

Dates: 1/5/2026 – 2/9/2026

Mon

Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.401

Dates: 1/7/2026 – 2/11/2026

Wed

Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

3915.402

Dates: 1/9/2026 – 2/13/2026

Fri

Time: 12:00PM - 2:15PM

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



## LADIES VOLLEYBALL

This is a NON-TEACHING recreational program that plays according to PIAA high school rules. Players should have knowledge of volleyball rules and skills at either intermediate or advanced level.

This is a fun ladies' night out to meet new people and enjoy some exercise. If you can only attend occasionally, there is a nightly drop-in fee.

Ages: 18 and over

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

3915.403  
Dates: 1/5/2026 - 2/9/2026  
Time: 7:30PM - 9:00PM



Mon

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

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

Ages: 18 and over

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

3915.405  
Dates: 1/7/2026 - 02/11/2026  
Time: 8:00PM - 10:00PM

Wed

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**

**GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](https://bethelpark.recdesk.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.**

## PAVILION PERMITS

**Resident Fee: \$40.00**  
**Non-Resident Fee: \$60.00**



Any resident of Bethel Park may reserve selected picnic areas at **Simmons Park** or **Moury Park**. These areas include a shelter and several picnic tables.

Permits are requested through RecDesk, our online software, at <https://bethelpark.recdesk.com/> Community/Home starting March 16, 2026. **You must request no later than 1 week in advance. You may reserve any available date from May 1 - Oct. 31.**

### Pavilion Payment

Rental payment in full is due at checkout and an invoice will be emailed to the provided email. Please note that while we want your event to be a success, failure to meet any payment deadlines may result in rental cancellation.

All Park and Municipal rules must be followed. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are permitted in any of the parks. You must take your garbage with you if you rent a pavilion during a weekend. The permit gives restricted use for the picnic area only. The tennis courts, sand volleyball court, and ball fields are NOT included on the permit. Water and restrooms are available in both parks. All dates subject to change.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT RENTAL FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.**

**\*A \$50 SECURITY DEPOSIT (CASH OR CHECK ONLY) is required when Moury Park restroom key is requested. Deposit will be returned upon return of restroom key.\***

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

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

Ages: 18 and over

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

3915.404

Dates: 1/6/2026 - 2/10/2026  
Time: 8:00PM - 10:00PM

Tue

**Location: Bethel Park Community Center**



**MUNICIPAL OFFICES &  
THE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE  
CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING  
HOLIDAYS:**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
**Monday, Feb. 16, 2026**



## PICKLEBALL – ADULT BEGINNER CLINIC

Learn the basics of the fastest growing sport in America!

Sign up with a friend or meet new people – Pickleball is super social and fun for all ages and fitness levels.

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 6 session dates

3915.407  
 Dates: 1/8/2026 – 02/12/2026  
 Time: 9:00AM – 10:00AM

Thu  
 Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## PICKLEBALL – ADULT ADVANCED CLINIC

Already know the basics of Pickleball? Take your game to the next level with improved strokes, shot selection and game strategy.

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 6 session dates

3915.408  
 Dates: 1/8/2026 – 02/12/2026  
 Time: 9:00AM – 10:00AM

Thu  
 Location: Bethel Park Community Center

## PICKLEBALL – ADULT INTERMEDIATE CLINIC

Elevate your game and win more matches by improving paddle control, shot accuracy, court positioning and game strategy.

Ages: 18 and over  
**Resident Fee: \$150.00** Non-Res Fee: \$160.00  
 6 session dates

3915.409  
 Dates: 1/8/2026 – 2/12/2026  
 Time: 10:00AM – 11:00AM

Thu  
 Location: Bethel Park Community Center



GO TO [BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM](http://BETHELPARK.RECDESK.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

# SilverSneakers

Did you know your health plan may cover FREE fitness classes here in Bethel Park? Stay active, stay social, and have fun—right in your neighborhood.

**Find Out More:**  
 Call (412) 831-1328  
 Visit us at 5151 Park Ave,  
 Bethel Park 15102



IN MY  
 PICKLEBALL  
 ERA



**NO COOK**  
*Tuesdays*

**SPRING 2026**



**RETURNING  
 MARCH 2026**

Bethel Park Community Center – Playground  
 5151 Park Ave, Bethel Park, PA



# BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER



## 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.

Go to [bethelpark.recdesk.com](http://bethelpark.recdesk.com) for room reservations or other information.

**May 1 - Oct. 31 Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Nov. 1 - April 30 Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

The open gym schedule is available on the RecDesk calendar on the Municipality's website.

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

## 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, griddle, refrigerator, freezer, coffee makers, and microwave.

### 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.



### 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. Locks are not permitted to remain overnight.



## COMMUNITY CENTER ADULT AND YOUTH CLUBS

### BETHEL ARTIST GUILD

Membership is open to Bethel Park residents and non-resident 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 of 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.

**SEE GOLD CARD CLUB ON PG. 30!**



## MEMBERSHIP FEES & RENEWALS

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

All memberships must be purchased at the Bethel Park Community Center. Valid identification is required.

### 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	\$125
Adult (18 - 59 years old)	\$10	\$150
Family	\$25	\$250
Senior Adult (60+)	\$ 5	\$ 80
Splash Park Seasonal Pass	\$50.00	(RESIDENTS ONLY)

#### Day Pass:

Individual Community Center	\$ 1	\$ 10
Splash Park Day Pass	\$ 3	\$ 5

(Everyone entering the Splash Park needs a pass)

#### To purchase day passes, please provide photo ID to prove residency.

Acceptable forms of identification include a Driver's License, Bethel Park School District Student ID, or a bill with your name and address. If NO ID is provided, the Non-Resident rate will apply.

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All Gym memberships expire 12 months after they were issued.



## ROOM RENTAL FEES

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

#### \*\*\*RATES TO INCREASE JAN. 1, 2026\*\*\*

AREA	RATE	CAPACITY
A	\$40 per hour	49
B	\$80 per hour	148
C	\$40 per hour	49
Classroom	\$30 per hour	49
A B C	\$130 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 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. However, it is recommended that you reserve your space early as dates fill up quickly!

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

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Rental payment in full is due as soon as the rental is approved and invoice is provided.
- A refundable security deposit of \$100 per area rented (*cash or check only*) in case there is any damage and room layout is due 15 days prior to your reservation.

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

## CANCELLATION POLICY/FEES

If you need to cancel your event, your request **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Bethel Park Community Center at [recreation@bethelparkpa.gov](mailto:recreation@bethelparkpa.gov).

- Cancellations received in writing more than 45 days prior to the scheduled date will receive a refund of rental payment, less a \$35 processing fee.
- Rental fee will not be refunded if written cancellation is received less than 45 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. This fee needs to be paid the day of the rental.
- Should your event need an alcohol permit for 150 persons or more, as a requirement, there will be additional security personnel fee. (\$60 per hour) Rental rate includes the set-up of tables and chairs.
- Renters will be responsible to submit a layout 15 days in advance of their event to sign-off on all seating/room arrangements.
- Rental rate includes setup of tables/chairs.
- Your rental space only includes the specified area listed in your rental agreement; use of additional amenities requires prior authorization.



# BETHEL PARK FARMERS MARKET

## THANKS YOU FOR A GREAT SEASON!

From rainy days to record heat, our community rocked it! Get ready for our 20th anniversary in 2026!



Don't miss a beat! Scan here for news, indoor market updates, and the latest on our 2026 Farmers' Market season.

**We bring the market.  
You bring the art.**

It's your chance to make farmers' market history.

Design our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tote

Scan for Details

**SPONSORED BY OUR PARTNER:  
BETHEL PARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

WINTER DOESN'T HAVE  
TO BE DREARY —  
BRIGHTEN YOUR SEASON  
WITH FRESH FLAVORS  
AND FRIENDLY FACES!

EVERY OTHER  
TUESDAY  
4 PM - 7 PM  
INSIDE THE  
BETHEL PARK  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER



## 2026 INDOOR MARKETS



# DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION



## Quick Reference Guide: Who to Contact & Where to Find Them

### CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

301 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Dr. James Walsh**, Superintendent

**Mandi Figlioli**, Assistant to the Superintendent for K-5 Education

**Joseph Villani**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

**Elizabeth Wells**, Director of Literacy, Assessment, Programs & Accountability

**Anthony Piscioneri**, Director of Financial & Personnel Services

**Sharon Kopy**, Director of Accounting & Financial Reporting

**Dr. Mark Korcinsky**, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations

**Dan Sloan**, Supervisor of Facilities and Operations

**Dr. David Muench**, Director of Student Support Services

**Dr. Sarah Shue**, Supervisor of Special Education

**Christopher Bolin**, Director of Technology

**Chris Gawlas**, Bethel Park School Police

**Brandon Agostinelli**, Food Services Director, Metz Culinary Management

**Laura Grimm**, Athletic Director

**Thomas Howell**, Assistant Athletic Director

**James Cromie**, Director of Communication & Public Relations

854-8402

854-8420

854-8420

854-8420

854-8425

854-8445

854-8608

854-8604

854-8410

854-8410

854-8418

854-8592

854-8754

854-8548

854-8548

854-8438

854-8571

854-8516

854-8580

854-8595

854-8550

854-8572

854-8565

854-8584

854-8514

854-8548

### BETHEL PARK HIGH SCHOOL

309 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Racquel Sutton**, Principal

**Nicola Hopkins**, Assistant Principal  
Student Academics & Affairs

**Brennan Hoffer**, Assistant Principal  
Student Academics & Affairs

- Counseling Office
- Health Office
- Attendance Office
- Library
- Records Office
- Activities Office
- Athletic Office

854-8595

854-8550

854-8572

854-8565

854-8584

854-8514

854-8548

### INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2807 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**James Fodse**, Principal

**Tyler Dillinger**, Assistant Principal

854-8677

854-8678

### NEIL ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

5800 Murray Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Lisa Miracle-Volpe**, Principal

**Keith Walters**, Assistant Principal

854-8751

854-8756

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1524 Hamilton Road, Bethel Park, PA 15234

**Jay Johnson**, Principal

854-8618

### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5400 Florida Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Teresa Doumont**, Principal

854-8741

### MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3301 South Park Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Eric Chalus**, Principal

854-8506

### GEORGE WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

515 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Fred Pearson**, Principal

854-8546

### WILLIAM PENN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

110 Woodlet Lane, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Brian Lenosky**, Principal

854-8522

### BETHEL PARK ONLINE ACADEMY

309 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

**Sheryl Kremer**, Director for Cyber/Alternative Learning Options

854-8428

### BETHEL PARK SCHOOL BOARD



**James Modrak**  
President



**Gail Hoppe**  
Vice President



**Kim Walsh-Turner**



**Buffie Faes**



**Christina Headley**



**Sharon Janosik**



**Vince Scalzo**



**Darren McGregor**



**Barry Christenson**

### WATCH SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS LIVE ON YOUTUBE!

MAIN DISTRICT LINE: 412-833-5000

VISIT US AT: [WWW.BPSD.ORG](http://WWW.BPSD.ORG)





## Message from Superintendent Dr. James Walsh

### *Midyear Reflections, Daring to Be Great!*

As we reach the midpoint of the 2025–26 school year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the exciting work underway and the progress we've already made in this big, transitional year. We continue to "Dare to be great!" in every classroom, hallway, and learning space.

I am thrilled to recognize the contributions of over 20 first year teachers, specialists, administrators, and support staff who have joined our district this year. Several familiar faces have also stepped into new roles, bringing fresh energy and expertise. Together, these "marigolds" continue to enrich our schools and support student success.

This midyear is also an opportunity to celebrate career milestones among our faculty and staff:

### *Milestone Pins*



- 5 years: "Teaching Matters"
- 10 years: "I Make a Difference"
- 15 years: "Oak Tree"
- 20 years: "Infinity"
- 25 years: "Golden Apple"
- 30+ years: "Lifetime of Service"



Congratulations and thank you to all our awardees. As the saying goes, "People who achieve great things are rarely freaks of nature—they're usually freaks of nurture." Your dedication continues to nurture our students and our community.

At Bethel Park, we remain grounded in our values: high-quality curriculum and innovative instruction, a welcoming and supportive culture, nurturing relationships, collaboration and teamwork, commitment to growth, persistence, and data-informed practices.

This year, as the final year of our **2021–2026 Strategic Plan**, we continue to:

- Maintain a relevant, engaging curriculum infused with 21st-century skills
- Invest in people, places, and programs
- Increase students' sense of connectedness, respect, and value

Looking ahead, we will study trends and identify opportunities to continue moving closer to our vision of being **"Best in Class."**

Together, as one community, we dare to be great.

As Theodore Roosevelt reminded us, "Greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."



## Message from School Board President James Modrak

### *Honoring Dr. Walsh's Legacy and Looking Ahead to Bethel Park's Future*

In October, **Superintendent Dr. James Walsh** announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2025–26 school year, marking the culmination of a distinguished career in public education and five years of outstanding service to the Bethel Park School District.

Since joining Bethel Park in 2021, Dr. Walsh has led with integrity, optimism, and a deep belief in our students' potential.

Under his leadership, the district has modernized facilities, strengthened academic programs, expanded STEAM and technology initiatives, and advanced wellness and inclusion across all schools. He also assembled a strong, collaborative leadership team that has helped Bethel Park achieve substantial progress in nearly every area.

Dr. Walsh's commitment to excellence helped Bethel Park High School earn recognition as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School, and in 2024, the Bethel Park School District was named a "Great Pennsylvania School" (GPS) for its strong academics, community engagement, and financial stability, cementing our place among the region's finest school districts.

He has led with authenticity, compassion, and a clear vision for growth, leaving behind a legacy of innovation and collaboration that will benefit Bethel Park for generations. On behalf of the entire Board and community, I extend our deepest gratitude for his exceptional leadership and dedication.

With his retirement on the horizon, the Bethel Park Board of School Directors has begun the process of selecting the district's next superintendent. The search, guided by Rebecca Heaton Hall of Weiss Burkardt Kramer LLC, will include stakeholder surveys and a public forum to gather community input. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the leadership profile for our next district leader.

We are committed to a thorough, transparent, and inclusive process—one that honors the legacy of those that have come before us while ensuring that Bethel Park continues to thrive. Our future is bright, and together we will identify a visionary leader to build upon our strong foundation and guide us forward.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our students.

*On behalf of the entire Board and community, I extend our deepest gratitude for Dr. Walsh's exceptional leadership and dedication.*



# Bethel Park Prepares for Leadership Transition as Superintendent Walsh Announces Retirement



The Bethel Park School District has begun the process of selecting its next superintendent following the announcement that **Dr. James Walsh** will retire at the conclusion of the 2025–26 school year, marking the culmination of a distinguished career in public education and five years of service to the Bethel Park community.

Dr. Walsh, who has led the district since March 2021, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve a community he has described as “student-centered, innovative, and deeply rooted in community pride.”

“It has truly been the honor of my lifetime to serve as Superintendent of the Bethel Park School District,” Walsh said. “Together, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students have every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a constantly changing world. I am grateful to the Board of School Directors, our amazing staff, families, and most of all, our students for their trust in me.”

During his tenure, Dr. Walsh has guided Bethel Park through a period of significant growth and transformation. Among his many accomplishments are the modernization of district facilities, including the renovation of Independence Middle School and construction of a new elementary school set to open in 2026; the implementation of evidence-based literacy programs and STEAM initiatives; and the expansion of student wellness, inclusion, and leadership development programs.

Under his leadership, Bethel Park students have achieved record levels of academic success, including multiple National Merit Scholars, U.S. service academy appointments, and Bethel Park High School’s recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

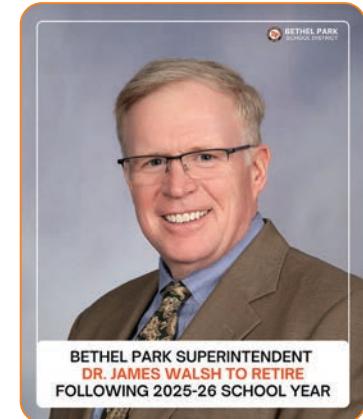
School Board President **James Modrak** praised Walsh’s leadership during a time of major change.

“Dr. Walsh joined us amid the challenges of a global pandemic and helped strengthen our culture and community,” Modrak said. “His vision and student-first philosophy have left a lasting mark on Bethel Park. We are deeply grateful for his service and wish him the best in retirement.”

The Bethel Park Board of School Directors has retained solicitor **Rebecca Heaton Hall** of Weiss Burkardt Kramer LLC (WBK) to lead the superintendent search process. WBK specializes in public education leadership searches across Pennsylvania.

“The Board is committed to conducting a thorough and inclusive search to identify a visionary leader who will continue to move Bethel Park forward,” Modrak said. “Selecting the next superintendent is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board, and we look forward to engaging our community throughout this process.”

Community engagement is playing a key role in shaping the district’s leadership profile. Stakeholder surveys and a public forum have been held to gather input on the district’s strengths, needs, and priorities. The results will be shared publicly and used to guide the selection process.



*If has truly been the honor of my lifetime to serve as Superintendent of the Bethel Park School District.*

## A Bittersweet Farewell: Bethel Park Begins the Final School Year in Six Beloved Buildings



As the holiday season has approached, Bethel Park School District finds itself midway through a historic 2025–26 school year: the final year for six of its long-standing elementary schools. Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Bethel Memorial, George Washington, Neil Armstrong, and William Penn are hosting students, staff, and families for the last time before consolidating into a new facility in fall 2026.

Constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, these schools have served as neighborhood cornerstones, providing generations of Bethel Park students with academic, athletic, and cultural opportunities. From bustling hallways to gym floors and music rooms, the buildings have been central to learning, growth, and community connection.

District officials said the move reflects the evolving needs of modern education. The new consolidated elementary school will offer flexible learning spaces, advanced technology integration, enhanced safety, and improved

accessibility to meet 21st-century educational standards.

“We are not closing the book on these schools; we are finishing a chapter in the history that has shaped Bethel Park for decades,” said Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh**. “At the same time, we are starting a new chapter filled with opportunity, innovation, and a renewed commitment to excellence.”

Throughout the school year, the district is honoring the legacy of each building while looking forward to the new school that will unite the elementary community under one roof. Even as students make their final memories in these familiar halls, they are helping bridge the district from its past into its future.

Each school will hold **“Final Bell” celebrations** that will offer current and former students and staff, as well as curious community members, one final opportunity to visit their old stomping grounds. We will have more details about those events as they draw nearer:

- May 27: **Abraham Lincoln, 6 p.m.**
- May 28: **Bethel Memorial, 6 p.m.**
- May 29: **George Washington, 6 p.m.**
- May 30: **William Penn, 10 a.m.**
- May 30: **Benjamin Franklin, noon**
- June 3: **Neil Armstrong, 4 p.m.**



# Parenting in 2025-26:

## Guiding with Presence in a Changing World



Parenting has never been simple, but raising children in 2025 brings both fresh opportunities and unique challenges. Technology evolves daily, the pace of life seems faster than ever, and the world our children are growing up in is filled with both promise and uncertainty. Amid all this, one truth remains constant: children need love, guidance, and connection more than anything else. So how can parents today best support their children? Here are some guiding ideas gathered from educational research.

### Relationships Come First

The most valuable gift a parent can give isn't the newest device, the best clothes, or a packed schedule of activities. It's time. Even ten uninterrupted minutes a day of truly listening to your child can strengthen their sense of security and belonging.

Make space for small rituals: sharing three good things that happened at dinner, taking a short walk after school, or creating a bedtime routine that's more than brushing teeth.

Children won't remember the busy family calendar. They'll remember the moments when they felt seen and heard.

### Technology: Lead by Example

Screens and social media are woven into childhood now, and while they bring opportunities to learn and connect, they also carry risks. The best approach is not to ban technology but to teach balance. Set limits, yes, but also model healthy use. Show your children how to use technology to create (*not just consume*), to learn (*not just scroll*), and to connect (*not just compare*). Most of all, let them see that you, too, know how to put the phone down when someone in the room needs your full attention.

### Resilience Matters More Than Perfection

We all want our children to succeed, but the path to success is paved with setbacks. Instead of shielding kids from failure, help them see mistakes as steppingstones. Celebrating effort as much as (*or more than*) results. When children learn that it's okay to stumble, they also learn to get back up, and that skill will carry them further than any test score.

### The School-Home Connection

Children thrive when families and schools work together. Parents can stay engaged by asking good questions, attending events, and keeping communication open with teachers. But just as important is giving children the chance to speak for themselves, solve problems, and advocate for their own needs. That balance: engaged but not overbearing sets the stage for independence.

### Don't Forget Wellness

Sleep, nutrition, exercise, and downtime are not luxuries; they are essentials. Kids need unstructured time to rest, play, and imagine. And parents need to model wellness, too. When children see adults making time for joy, balance, and health, they're more likely to do the same.

### A Final Word

Parenting in 2025 may look different than it was a generation ago, but the fundamentals haven't changed. Presence matters more than perfection. Children need steady anchors in a world that sometimes feels unsteady. At the end of the day, what they'll remember most is how you made them feel: valued, supported, and loved as they found their way toward independence.

## Bethel Park's Ryan Petras Making an Immediate Impact at Duquesne

Freshman wide receiver **Ryan Petras**, a 2025 Bethel Park High School graduate, is already making waves at Duquesne University, showing promise as one of the school's next standout receivers.

Through his first eight games, Petras had collected more than 100 yards this season with four receiving touchdowns and a solo rushing touchdown. He made an immediate impression in Week 2 against Lincoln University, scoring on both his first collegiate reception and first rush. Against Stonehill, Petras caught three passes for 83 yards and two touchdowns, both team highs.

"I'm just trying to make the most out of what I can do and the few opportunities I have," Petras said. "Whether that's catching touchdowns or blocking for my running backs, I feel like that's the biggest part."

Petras' high school career was marked by early challenges, including injuries that limited his varsity play as a freshman and sophomore. Once healthy, he emerged as one of Pennsylvania's top wide receivers. He also

excelled in baseball, earning national attention as the state's No. 3-ranked shortstop and initially committing to Northwestern to play baseball before ultimately focusing on football.

"I love the coaches here. Coach Schmitt was super nice," Petras said of choosing Duquesne. "The campus was amazing and so were the people around it. I really liked the setup here."

Despite joining a crowded wide receiver room featuring upperclassmen like fifth-year player **Joey Isabella**, Petras has already carved out meaningful playing time. With several top receivers set to graduate over the next two years, Petras could take on a larger role soon, but he has proven he can contribute immediately.

Bethel Park and Duquesne fans alike will be watching closely as Petras continues to develop his collegiate career.

# New School Cell Phone Policy

A new cellphone policy at Bethel Park High School is changing classroom dynamics — and educators say it's for the better.

As part of a statewide trend, BPHS now requires students to place their phones in wall-mounted pouches during class. The move aims to reduce distractions and improve student engagement.

"It's weird... we're so used to always having our phone in our hand while we are talking," said senior **Joanna Little**, who admitted the adjustment took time to get used to.

Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Joe Villani** said the change is designed to help students stay focused on learning. "There is a time and place students need to have access to cellphones," he said. "One of those times they don't is when they are supposed to be focused on instructional goals."

While district leaders initially expected pushback, Villani said the response has been largely positive. "Students have admitted, 'I'm less distracted, I'm focusing more, [we're] talking to each other,'" he said.

Students agree that the classrooms feel more connected. "I feel like everyone is speaking to each other more," said Little. "In the past we were talking, but maybe not quite listening."

Senior **Caleb Bush** echoed that sentiment, saying, "There's a lot more conversation. It feels a lot livelier and less everyone just staring at their phones."

The policy appears to be working from the teachers' perspective as well. AP European history teacher **Chelsea Casagrande** said she noticed the impact almost immediately. "Being able to disconnect from cellphones has allowed everyone to reconnect socially," she said. "Students are more engaged

in the classroom. It's not that people don't want to talk — it's just when you have another option, the phone in front of you, you choose that."

Across Pennsylvania, more districts are implementing similar policies following national efforts to curb cellphone use in schools. While the state has not mandated restrictions, it strongly encourages local policies that promote student focus.

At Bethel Park, cellphone access varies by grade level: middle school students may use their devices only at lunch, and elementary students must keep them in lockers throughout the day.

Administrators say the early results suggest the effort is paying off — creating more engaged, focused, and connected classrooms across the district.



*"There is a time and place students need to have access to cellphones...One of those times they don't is when they are supposed to be focused on instructional goals." - Dr. Joe Villani*



## Stay Informed: How Bethel Park Notifies Families About Delays and Cancellations



Bethel Park School District is committed to keeping families informed when school delays or cancellations are necessary due to inclement weather or other emergencies. To ensure timely communication, the district utilizes multiple platforms to notify families of schedule changes.

The primary method is through the ParentSquare School-to-Home notification system, which sends alerts via phone and email to all registered families. Notifications are also posted on the district's website, local television news stations, and Bethel Park's social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter).

To receive these notifications, families are encouraged to review and update their contact information in the parent portal of their eSchoolPlus account.

This information syncs with ParentSquare to ensure that the district has the most accurate contact details. Parents can select which phone numbers they would like to use to receive alerts about delays and cancellations.

For the latest updates during inclement weather, parents can also check the websites of local television stations KDKA-TV (CBS), WPXI-TV (NBC), and WTAE-TV (ABC), where Bethel Park's schedule changes will be posted.

# Six BPHS Students Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program

Six Bethel Park High School seniors have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The honorees are **Timothy Burt, Charlotte Gaston, Samuel Hoppe, Grace Peroziola, Kuon Verbosky, and Parker Walton**. They are among about 34,000 students nationwide honored for their exceptional academic promise.

Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of over 1.3 million juniors who entered the competition by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 16,000 of those high performers were named semifinalists



earlier this month. While Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, they remain eligible for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, founded in 1955, is among the nation's most prestigious academic recognition programs.

"We are very proud of the students who achieved this national recognition," said Bethel Park High School Principal **Mrs. Racquel Sutton**. "It is reflective of their hard work and dedication to learning."

# District Officially Rededicates Independence Middle School



In September, Bethel Park School District celebrated Independence Middle School's grand reopening ahead of its annual Open House. District officials, students, school board members, and representatives from HDG Architecture and SiteLogiq celebrated this significant milestone together.

The ceremony included heartfelt remarks and a symbolic ribbon-cutting with red, white, and blue ribbons—symbolizing celebration, growth, and community.

Guests enjoyed guided tours by IMS students, explored impressive before-and-after displays, and viewed a project timeline presented by HDG Architecture. Refreshments in the cafeteria added to the festive atmosphere.

This \$55 million renovation began in January 2022 and infused the school with natural light and vibrant colors throughout the hallways and classrooms.

Independence Middle School serves grades 7 and 8 and will expand to include grade 6 in September 2026. IMS originally opened in 1975 and was previously remodeled in 1991.

## Bethel Park Fourth Grader Wins World Taekwondo Title



**Sophie Chinn**, a fourth grader at Memorial Elementary School and second-degree black belt in Taekwondo, captured the title of World Champion in late July at the ATA Tournament of Champions in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sophie competed in the Girls 9-10 Creative Weapons division, performing a routine with two nunchucks simultaneously, a form she created with guidance from her teacher and family, set to music. Her performance earned her the top score and the championship title.

The ATA Tournament of Champions brings together the highest-ranked competitors from the U.S. and Canada, who qualify through regional and national tournaments. World champions from other countries also compete head-to-head for international titles.

Sophie trains under **Master Cameron Stadfeld**, who praised her dedication and creativity in the sport.



# Bethel Park School District Adopts New Brand Guidelines

The Bethel Park School District formally adopted new brand guidelines at its September voting meeting, including an updated primary athletics logo and an entirely new secondary athletics logo.

The district's official colors remain Black and Bethel Park Orange, a bold red-based shade first used by the district in the 1960s.

The athletic logos were designed by **Noah Knerr** and the Pro Knitwear design team, following a process similar to the district's 2022 institutional branding effort, which incorporated feedback from staff, students and community members and design expertise from **Nancy Kavinsky** of Creative Zip, Ltd.

Superintendent **Dr. James Walsh** said the new logos reflect both the district's identity and its aspirations.

"Our brand is much more than a logo. It is a visual representation of everything the school district believes in, stands for, and promises to our stakeholders," Walsh said. "This process was designed to reflect our all-around standard of excellence in academics, athletics and all other officially affiliated district programs. It also serves to reinforce the core essence of our school pride, accomplishment and spirit."

Athletic Director **Laura Grimm** said she expects the new logos to resonate with students, fans and alumni.

"We have a proud athletic tradition at Bethel Park, and we wanted to honor that legacy while creating logos that reflect who we are in 2025 and beyond," she said. "These designs unite our community and embody the pride, strength and resolve our teams and fans carry into every competition."

The full brand guidelines are available on the district's website.



## Bethel Park Teacher Selected for Statewide Mentoring Program



The Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) has selected Bethel Park School District's **Kathleen Foster** as a mentor in the fourth PSMLA Peer Mentoring Program cohort.

The program supports novice world language teachers while fostering leadership among experienced educators.

Mentors and mentees collaborate to set strategic goals for effective, communicative teaching practices.

Foster, a veteran Spanish teacher, was chosen for her dedication to research-based best practices and the strong support of her administration and community.



## High School Turf Fields Being Replaced

In November, FieldTurf began work to remove and replace both turf fields at the Bethel Park High School campus. The project includes replacing the original turf installed when the new high school opened in 2012–13.

For safety and security reasons, the fields and surrounding construction areas will be closed to students, staff, and visitors until March 1, 2026, or until further notice.

If you have questions about the project, please contact **Laura Grimm** [[grimm.laura@bphawks.org](mailto:grimm.laura@bphawks.org)], Director of Athletics, or **Dan Sloan** [[sloan.daniel@bphawks.org](mailto:daniel@bphawks.org)], Supervisor of Facilities and Operations.

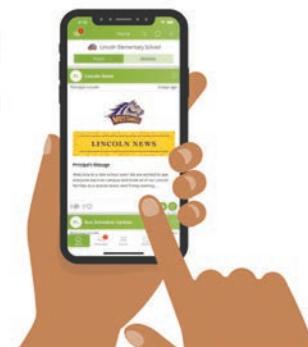


Download the **ParentSquare** app today!

Stay involved with your student's learning and activities at school. From anywhere.



ParentSquare



# District and Historical Society Announce Project Preservation Partnership



## PROJECT PRESERVATION

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

**Do you have a story, photo or memory from any of BPSD's closing schools?**

We're collecting voices, photos & memorabilia from the five closing district schools while we prepare for the excitement of the new elementary facility opening in fall 2026.

Be part of preserving the history of these buildings one memory at a time!

Closing schools include Neil Armstrong, Memorial, Ben Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, William Penn, & George Washington.

## Help Us Preserve Bethel Park School District History!

The Bethel Park Historical Society, in partnership with the Bethel Park School District and BPTV, is documenting the final year of the six school buildings set to close at the end of this school year—and we want your stories to be part of it!

Share your favorite memories, photos, and memorabilia from any of the schools' closing. This will become part of our year-long video documentary and a special library at the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center.

Your memories matter whether you were a student, teacher, parent, or neighbor. Let's honor the legacy of these schools as we look ahead to the exciting opening of the new elementary school in Fall 2026!

Schools closing include:

Neil Armstrong  
Memorial  
Ben Franklin  
Abraham Lincoln  
William Penn  
George Washington



Questions? Contact **Tim Moury** at 412-992-8359 or email: [historicalsocietybp@gmail.com](mailto:historicalsocietybp@gmail.com).

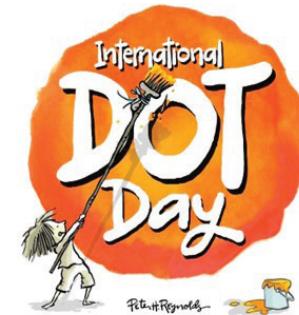
## Students 'Make Their Mark' During International Dot Day Celebration

In September, the Bethel Park School District joined millions of students and educators around the world in celebrating **International Dot Day**, a global event that promotes creativity, courage and collaboration.

Students and staff across the district wore polka dots and participated in activities inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' book "**The Dot**," which tells the story of a teacher who helps a hesitant student discover her confidence and creativity by encouraging her to "make her mark."

Teachers organized a variety of classroom challenges and collaborative art projects designed to inspire self-expression and celebrate individuality.

Hallways and classrooms were filled with colorful dots and displays, reflecting the district's commitment to fostering creativity and community spirit.



**International Dot Day,**  
celebrated annually on  
Sept. 15, has engaged more  
than 25 million participants  
worldwide since its founding in  
2011.

# Bethel Park High School Crowns 2025 Homecoming Royalty

Bethel Park High School celebrated its 2025 Homecoming with a spirited evening of festivities that brought together students, families, and community members.

**Ty Benlock** and **Caroline Zelt** were named Homecoming Prince and Princess, while **Sean Rovers** and **Joanna Little** were crowned King and Queen.

The event featured a lively parade and schoolwide celebration, capping off a night of tradition and school pride. The football team punctuated the festivities with a 75-14 blowout win over neighboring Baldwin.

District officials thanked all participants for helping make the event a memorable success.



## Bethel Park Honors Outstanding Students and Staff with School Spirit Awards



During Homecoming Weekend, Bethel Park High School recognized five individuals during its 2025 Homecoming celebration for their outstanding service and school spirit.

**Mrs. Tracy Celletti** received the **Staff Service Award** for her work as Activities Coordinator, which involved ensuring the smooth running of school events.

**Staff Spirit Awards** were presented to art teacher **Paige Landay** for her contributions to the Art Festival and musical dancers, and to theater director **Chris Plummer** for his leadership and mentorship of the Stage Crew.

Senior **Sean Rovers** earned the **Student Spirit Award** for founding **Smiles From Sean**, an organization that supports children battling serious illnesses. Student Government Association President **Joanna Little** was honored for her leadership and dedication to the school.

District officials said the awardees exemplify the spirit of the Bethel Park community.

## Bethel Park and Peters Township Co-host Marching Band Festival

The 57th Annual Bethel Park High School Marching Band Festival was held on Sept. 27 at the Black Hawk Stadium. It was an unforgettable evening of musical excellence.

The Combined Band Festival with Peters Township opened its gates at 6 p.m. to enthusiastic crowds eager to experience incredible performances.

The festival showcased impressive talent from ten participating groups: Bethel Park, Peters Township, North Hills, Chartiers Valley, Seton LaSalle, Canon-McMillan, Avella, Charleroi, Bentworth, and the South Hills Stars. Each ensemble brought its unique energy and precision to the stadium, creating a memorable celebration of marching band artistry.



# German Students 'Unlock' Their History at Bethel Park Historical Society

Bethel Park High School German students had the opportunity to explore German heritage through an engaging program at the Bethel Park Historical Society, in partnership with the Heinz History Center's Unlock Your History initiative.

This discussion-based, hands-on event allowed participants to delve into the rich narratives contained in the documents and artifacts they were given.

As the most claimed heritage in the United States, according to the 2000 census, the program provided valuable insights into German history and the challenges of understanding historical documents and artifacts.

Facilitated by **Pam Israel** from Unlock Your History and **Bob Stakeley** of the Heinz History Center, the event



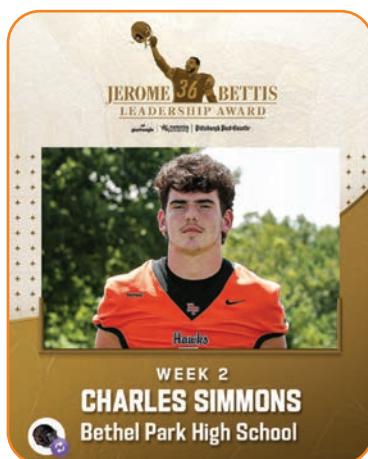
encouraged attendees to bring personal heirlooms to gain a deeper appreciation of their family stories.

Participants learned how to decipher clues hidden within documents and were given guidance on preserving and caring for their artifacts.

A highlight of the program included a discussion of letters from the Frederick John Osterling family. **Frederick J. Osterling**, a prominent architect in Pittsburgh, designed several significant buildings, including the Union Trust Building.

This event successfully illustrated how family heirlooms, genealogy, and history intertwine to demonstrate the importance of personal narratives within the broader context of the German-American experience.

## Simmons Honored with Jerome Bettis Leadership Award



Bethel Park High School senior **Charlie Simmons** has been named a recipient of the **Jerome Bettis Leadership Award**, presented by the Pittsburgh Steelers, The Mentoring Partnership, Giant Eagle, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The award honors high school football players from across the region who demonstrate exceptional leadership, sportsmanship, and commitment to mentoring their peers both on and off the field.

Simmons was recognized for his positive influence among teammates and his dedication to building strong relationships within the school community.

"Strong relationships are important for everyone, but especially for young

people," said athletic director **Laura Grimm**. "Student-athletes have a unique opportunity to offer mentoring support to their peers to help them learn and grow — on and off the field."

Simmons was subsequently honored during an on-field ceremony at a Steelers home game in recognition of his leadership and community impact.

## Bethel Park Alum Joe Serafini '16 Brings Holiday Show to Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Playhouse will present "Christmas Live with **Joe Serafini**" on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at the PNC Theatre, 350 Forbes Ave., as part of its Winter Music Series.

Serafini, a 2016 Bethel Park alum known for his role in "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," will perform holiday hits and classics alongside guest artists. The show builds on his popular Christmas cabaret, which has gained a large following on TikTok and Instagram.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$50 and can be purchased with an optional gift envelope upon request.



# Bethel Park Students Promote Water Safety, Honor Late Teacher Through Scholarship Project

Bethel Park High School students **Cami Fisher** and **Nora Welch** are turning tragedy into action through a DECA Community Awareness Project aimed at promoting water safety, honoring the memory of a late teacher, and supporting the Big Heart Scholarship.

The project began last spring in collaboration with fellow DECA members **Laura Casaldi** and **Samira Gorman**. Over the past year, the group — known as the Big Heart Team — has focused on three primary goals: keeping the memory of the late **Jon Gentile** alive, raising awareness of the dangers of low head dams, and raising funds to sustain the Big Heart Scholarship.

Gentile, a former Bethel Park High School teacher, died in a kayaking accident in 2022 caused by a low head dam — a river structure that creates hidden, recirculating currents and can be extremely dangerous. The students have worked to educate their peers about water safety and advocate for increased signage at low head dams through PA House Bill 961, a water safety bill being sponsored by State Rep. **Natalie Mihalek**, R-Pittsburgh, which has worked its way through the legislative process and appears to have widespread and bipartisan support.

The team's initiatives included visiting high school kayaking classes and Intro to Marketing classes, traveling to George Washington Elementary School to engage younger students with interactive safety lessons, and hosting a LEAD session with **Claudia Huber** '20, a legislative aide, Bethel Park alumna, and Gentile's niece. They also encouraged the community to contact district representatives in support of House Bill 961 and related resolutions.

To raise funds for the Big Heart Scholarship, Fisher and Welch organized raffle baskets, promoted donations through flyers, and directed proceeds from select items in the school store, The Bean, to the scholarship. They also shared information at college fairs and promoted the scholarship through the district's Instagram page.

"I can't think of a better way to make a difference and to keep Mr. Gentile's legacy alive than promoting water safety and supporting the scholarship made in his honor," Fisher said.

Fisher and Welch will present their project at the state DECA conference in February, where students from across Pennsylvania showcase business and community initiatives that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and real-world skills in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

## Bethel Park Hosts Record-breaking South Hills College & Career Fair

Bethel Park High School hosted the largest academic event in its history on Tuesday, Oct. 7, as the South Hills College and Career Fair brought together 160 colleges, universities, and trade schools from across the country.

Open to students in grades 9–12 from Bethel Park and neighboring districts, the fair offered thousands of students a chance to meet admissions representatives, explore academic programs and career paths, and make connections to guide their future. Participating schools included local schools like Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University and schools from all across the country like University of Arizona, Florida Southern College, Purdue University, Vanderbilt University, Syracuse University, North Carolina State University, University of Miami, Texas A&M University, and Wake Forest University.

The event was a collaborative effort between Bethel Park and area schools including Baldwin, Upper St. Clair, Peters Township, Mt. Lebanon, Keystone Oaks, Canon-McMillan, South Park, and South Fayette. Classrooms, gyms,

and cafeterias were filled with information sessions, displays, and interactive activities designed to help students plan for college and careers.

Organizers said the fair provided an unparalleled opportunity for students at all stages of their post-secondary planning to ask questions, gather information, and explore a wide range of options in one setting.



## Bethel Park Violinists Selected for Prestigious PMEA Honors Orchestra

Bethel Park students **Lyla Paull** and **Adele Stamenov**, who each play the violin, were recently selected to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Honors Orchestra, a prestigious program that recognizes the state's top middle and high school musicians.

The festival took place **Nov. 15–16** and concluded with a **Nov. 16** concert at Carson Middle School in the North Allegheny School District. Selection to the PMEA Honors Orchestra is highly competitive and reflects exceptional skill, dedication, and musicianship.



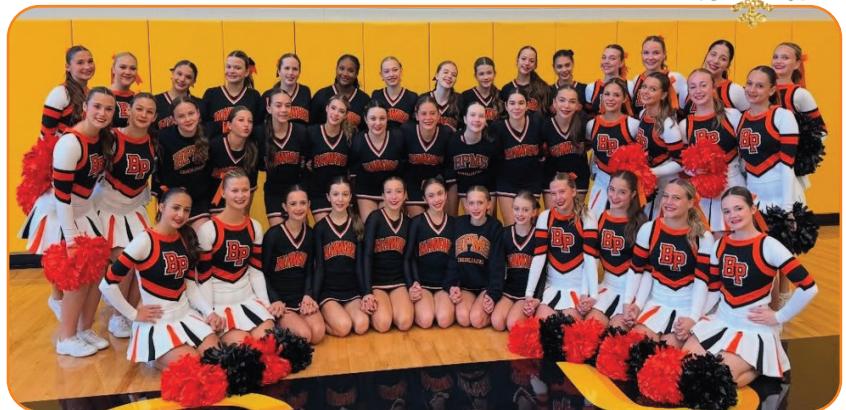
# Competitive Cheer Team Leapfrogs the Competition at JagFest



In October, the Bethel Park High School and Bethel Park Middle School Competitive Cheer teams each performed very well at the JagFest Cheer Competition at Thomas Jefferson School.

Both teams impressed the crowd with their energy, skill, and spirit. BPHS earned third place in their Game Day Division and captured top honors in the Intermediate Small Varsity Traditional Division, while BPMS took home an outstanding first place award in their Game Day Division.

Bethel Park also had a clean sweep in the Jump Off and Tumble Off contests! A huge shoutout to sophomore **Elyse Rost**, winner of the High School Tumble Off; eighth grader **Addisyn Voytko**, winner of the Eighth Grade Tumble Off; seventh grader **Ava Edmonds**, winner of the Seventh Grade Tumble Off; and Neil Armstrong Middle School fifth grader **Avery Chropka**, winner of the Fifth Grade Tumble Off. BPHS freshman **Rylie Sillman** also won the High/Middle School Jump Off.



## Boys Soccer Makes Deep WPIAL Playoff Run



With 18 seniors and a wealth of playoff experience, the Bethel Park boys soccer team delivered on its preseason promise, capping one of the most successful seasons in recent program history.

The Black Hawks advanced to the WPIAL Class 3A semifinals, where they fell to No. 3 Franklin Regional, 1–0, narrowly missing a trip to the championship match.

Their postseason run included a 2–0 quarterfinal victory over Mars, highlighted by **Youssef Benrabia's** stunning 40-yard strike and a penalty kick goal by senior captain **Xavier Jackson**. The defense, led by captains **Gavin DeClair** and **Luke Rubican**, along with junior **Aaden McClelland**, shut down Mars' attack to secure the clean sheet.

Under veteran head coach **Doug Fink**, who just wrapped up his eighth season, Bethel Park showcased the teamwork, resilience, and leadership that have become hallmarks of the program.

The senior-heavy roster achieved both a section title and a deep playoff run, with several players earning postseason honors.

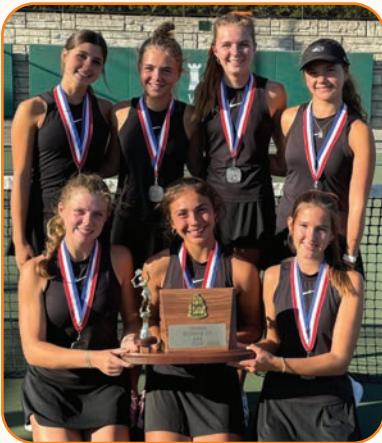
- **Xavier Jackson:** 22 goals; All-State, All-WPIAL, and All-Section
- **Youssef Benrabia:** All-WPIAL and All-Section
- **Luke Rubican:** All-Section goalkeeper
- **Gavin DeClair:** All-Section, honorable mention, defender

"This group of 18 seniors had loads of varsity experience," Fink said. "I expected a total team effort — and I am proud to say that nearly all of our players made an impact."

Though their season ended one win short of the WPIAL final, the Black Hawks'



## Girls Tennis Team Advances to State Quarterfinals



The Bethel Park girls' tennis team (14-2) played in its third straight WPIAL Class 3A championship match at the Janet Swanson Tennis Center on the Washington & Jefferson College campus, falling to Shady Side Academy (15-0), 3-1.

Bethel Park qualified for the PIAA Class 3A team tournament by defeating Fairview (7-1) 3-1 in the first round in Erie. The Hawks advanced to the state quarterfinals in Hershey, where their season ended vs. 11-1 Conestoga (Tredyffrin Township, Pa.), 3-1.

## Two Golfers Excel at WPIAL Championships

Bethel Park golfers capped off their fall seasons with strong showings at the WPIAL/UPMC Sports Medicine Individual Golf Championships in September and October.

Senior **Sarah Jakel** represented the Black Hawks at the Girls Class 3A Finals at Sewickley Heights Country Club, finishing 35th in a competitive field highlighted by Elizabeth Forward's **Mya Morgan**, who captured her second WPIAL girls' golf title.

On the boys' side, junior **Joey Boff** finished 13th at the Class 3A Championships at Butler Country Club, carding a 9-over-par 79 to lead Bethel Park. Fox Chapel's **Carson Kittsley** earned top honors with a record-setting two-day total of 134 (-8).

Both Jakel and Boff's performances reflect the continued strength of Bethel Park's golf program and its ability to compete among the best in Western Pennsylvania.



## Elementary School Students Celebrate Diwali, Festival of Lights

Many Bethel Park students recently celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights in October. They joined millions worldwide in recognizing a holiday that symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Students learned about Diwali's cultural significance through classroom lessons, art projects, and stories shared by families who observe the tradition. The celebration helped students understand how Diwali is honored not only in Hinduism, but also in other Indian religions such as Jainism and Sikhism.

District officials said activities like these reflect Bethel Park's commitment to celebrating cultural diversity and promoting inclusivity. By recognizing major holidays and traditions from around the world, the district helps ensure that all students feel seen, valued, and connected to the community we share.



## Neil Armstrong Sixth Graders Try their Hands at Healthcare in Interactive Medical Simulation



Sixth grade students at Neil Armstrong Middle School recently participated in a hands-on medical simulation, stepping into various healthcare roles to assist their "patients" on the road to recovery. During the activity, students collected vital signs, identified symptoms, and analyzed their findings to formulate treatment plans.

This immersive experience introduced students to real-world problem-solving and teamwork within the medical field.

Looking ahead, students will expand their knowledge and skills by learning and performing CPR, further preparing them for future studies in health science.

# Bethel Park Students Found Career Mentorship Program for Peers



Bethel Park High School sophomores **Leena Miloua** and **Andrea Solorzano** have created a new program to help students explore careers and connect with business, healthcare, marketing, and law professionals.

The initiative, called BP Career Connect, grew out of an idea the students discussed on a bus ride home from last year's DECA district competition. With guidance from DECA advisor **Mrs. Emily Smoller**, they refined the project to prepare it for competition and community implementation.

BP Career Connect allows students to participate in job shadows, field trips, and guest speaker sessions to gain real-world experience and discover and occasionally reconsider potential career paths. Students do not need to be

## High School Class of 1975 Celebrates 50 Years

The Bethel Park High School Class of 1975 celebrated its 50-year reunion in September with a lively gathering at The Loft in Canonsburg.

More than 160 classmates reconnected, reminisced, and enjoyed music from their high school days.

Earlier that day, about 22 alumni toured the new Bethel Park High School, and the class presented Principal Racquel Sutton with a \$1,975 donation to support a future project honoring the milestone anniversary.



members of DECA to participate.

"Having presented at DECA before helped calm our nerves and taught us how to get the word out," Miloua said. "We want to give students a chance to explore careers in a hands-on way."

The students are recruiting local professionals to host job shadows or mentor students. Businesses can contact the team at [bpcareerconnect@gmail.com](mailto:bpcareerconnect@gmail.com) or Mrs. Smoller at [smoller.emily@bphawks.org](mailto:smoller.emily@bphawks.org).

The career readiness project launched at the start of the 2025–26 school year. Miloua and Solorzano will present it in the Community Awareness category at the February 2026 DECA State Conference in Hershey, where students from across Pennsylvania showcase leadership and entrepreneurship projects. The program also maintains an Instagram account, [@bp\\_career\\_connect](https://www.instagram.com/bp_career_connect), for students and businesses to follow their progress.

"By opening their workplaces to our students, businesses can help them explore careers, discover their passions, and begin to chart their career paths," Solorzano said. "We're excited to connect students with local professionals and inspire the next generation of business leaders in this region."

## Bethel Park Education Foundation Accepting grant requests



The Bethel Park Education Foundation (**BPEF**), a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting quality education, is accepting grant applications for the 2025–26 school year.

The Foundation provides funding for programs that enhance learning opportunities for Bethel Park students through partnerships with individuals, local businesses, and community organizations. Unlike public schools, BPEF receives no state or federal funding and relies entirely on private donations to sustain its initiatives.

"The Foundation's goal is to create exceptional educational opportunities for students," said BPEF trustee **Mrs. Pam Dobos**. "Providing a quality education benefits not only our schools but the entire community."

While independent of the Bethel Park School District, BPEF works closely with the school board, administration, teachers, and students to identify and support projects that foster creativity, innovation, and excellence in education.

All programs that benefit Bethel Park students are considered for financial support, with the list of funded initiatives evolving each year to meet emerging needs.

For more information or to apply for a grant, contact [bpefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bpefoundation@gmail.com).



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