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YEAR IN REVIEW - 2025

BETHEL TOWNSHIP

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A Message to Bethel Township Residents

As we close out 2025, Bethel Township reflects on a year shaped by careful decision-making, strong public engagement, and long-term planning. Throughout the year, the Board of Supervisors focused on public safety, infrastructure, and financial management while listening closely to resident feedback.

Government & Operations

Monthly Board of Supervisors meetings continued throughout the year, and in 2025 the Township introduced **livestreaming on YouTube**, making meetings more accessible and transparent for residents.

Township finances remained stable, supported by clean audits, competitive bidding, and expense management.



Pictured: Bethel Township Hose Company #1 and Main Line Health/Riddle EMS vehicles at National Night Out in August.

Pictured: Residents enjoying the Corn Boil in August.



Emergency Response & Public Safety

In May 2025, Bethel Township declared a local emergency following the closure of Crozer and Taylor Hospitals, which disrupted EMS coverage across Delaware County. This declaration allowed the Township to act quickly to protect residents and coordinate emergency resources, if needed. These closures did not directly affect Bethel, as the Board of Supervisors proactively selected a new EMS provider in 2024.

The Township continued to invest in **police staffing, equipment upgrades, and fleet planning**, ensuring readiness while managing costs. The **Bethel Township Police Department** welcomed new officers and promotions, ensuring continued coverage and responsiveness. Investments were made in new police radios, safety equipment, and fleet reliability.

Pictured: Through a partnership with the GV Neurodiversity Support Group, BTPD vehicles were equipped with Carter Kits to help officers better assist children.

Supporting Volunteer Responders

In November, the Board adopted a **Volunteer Service Tax Credit Program** under Act 172, providing a Bethel local tax credit to qualifying volunteer firefighters of **Bethel Township Hose Company #1**.

This tax credit program is designed to support, retain, and encourage volunteerism in firefighters in Bethel Township.

Infrastructure, Roads, & Stormwater

The Township advanced the **2025 Road Program**, completing resurfacing and maintenance projects.

Planning grant activity continued for major stormwater and flood mitigation efforts, including the **Sharon Basin Retrofit and Goodley Road Culvert Project**.



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Pictured: A crowd gathered to welcome the guest of honor to the annual Egg Hunt in April.

Shaffer Preserve: Planning, Input, & Progress

In January and again in December, the Township held Special Meetings dedicated to **Shaffer Preserve**, where engineers presented updated designs focused on minimizing environmental impact, preserving trees, improving accessibility, and managing stormwater responsibly.

Throughout the year, the Township advanced environmental reviews, wetland evaluation, and design to prepare for permitting with state and county agencies.

The project continued to move forward as a low-impact, passive preserve, with an emphasis on grant funding.

Resident feedback played a significant role in shaping discussions, design decisions, and next steps.

Planning Ahead: 2026 Budget

In November, the Board presented the 2026 Preliminary Budget, outlining projected revenues, expenses, and the strategic use of fund balance. The proposal confirmed that **no new taxes were introduced** and reflected a commitment to maintaining essential services, investing in infrastructure, and preserving reserves consistent with state requirements and professional best practices.

The **2026 Budget** was formally adopted in December. Residents can review both the preliminary and adopted budgets, as well as the budget presentations, on the Township website.

Parks, Open Space, & Environmental Initiatives

The Bethel Township Parks and Recreation Board hosted beloved annual events including the **Egg Hunt, Independence Day Fireworks, Corn Boil, Movie Night, and Lunch with Santa**. Board members also participated in **Trunk or Treat** at Bethel Springs and helped organize the first annual **National Night Out**, featuring our police, fire, and EMS personnel.

Improvements continued at Township parks, including tree removal and walkway upgrades in development for safety and accessibility.

Environmental efforts advanced through projects like the **Songbird Garden** addition at John Adkinson Park, hosting a **Backyard Composting Workshop** with the Pennsylvania Resources Council, and collaborating with the Delaware County Conservation District to host a **Stormwater Labeling Event**.

The Parks and Recreation Board welcomed Youth Ambassadors Zoe Maddren and Lane DerOhannessian, who actively participated in organizing and running the year's events.

Community Partnerships & Recognition



The Board issued proclamations recognizing Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Virginia Hayes, Sahan Gajavelli for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Police Week, National Library Week, the championship BYC 9U Football Team, and long-time resident George Lincoln, celebrating service, education, athletic achievement, and civic engagement.

Continued collaboration with the **Garnet Valley School District and Rachel Kohl Community Library** supported shared community goals and programming.

The Township welcomed and supported Junior Supervisor Leah Consiglio, reinforcing youth engagement in local government.

Pictured: The Board honored Sahan Gajavelli, who earned the rank of Eagle Scout, in August.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2026

As Bethel Township looks to 2026, priorities remain focused on the following:

- Public safety and emergency preparedness
- Infrastructure and stormwater improvements
- Responsible financial planning
- Clear, consistent communication with residents



Pictured: Bethel Township Parks & Rec as the Wizard of Oz at the Bethel Springs Elementary School HSA Trunk or Treat in October.

Thank you to our residents, volunteers, staff, emergency responders, and boards for helping make 2025 a year of meaningful progress!



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