Bath Community Fund seeks grant proposals

Bath Community Fund of the Akron Community Foundation will accept grant proposals beginning Saturday, Sept. 1, for programs that enrich Bath and improve residents’ quality of life.

Applications will be considered for programs that preserve Bath’s historical and environmental legacy, enhance the local arts and cultural landscape, serve youth through education and recreation and meet residents’ social service needs. Approximately $20,000 will be available for grant making.

The fund, created in 2014 by a group of Bath residents, is a permanent endowment dedicated to strengthening the Bath community for current and future generations.

Last year, in its second grant cycle, the fund awarded $14,135 to eight area nonprofits, bringing its cumulative grant-making total to nearly $30,000.

Recent grants have made a telescope at the Bath Nature Preserve observatory accessible to people with disabilities, supported an oral health education program for third-graders at Richfield Elementary School and resurfaced walking paths at Hale Farm & Village.

“This year’s grant awards will once again be determined by how closely the projects align with BCF’s goals, objectives and mission,” said Jen Hardin, BCF grants committee member.

A five-person committee of BCF advisory board members, donors and community leaders will review requests and make determinations. Grant decisions will be announced in December.

More information about the fund’s grant-making priorities and a complete list of prior grants can be found at bathcommunityfund.org. Qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may apply online through Monday, Oct. 1. The application is available at akroncf.org/ApplyBCF.

Questions about the application process should be directed to John Garofalo, vice president of community investment, at 330-436-5624 or jgarofalo@akroncf.org.

Since its inception, BCF has raised more than $700,000, while reinvesting $28,635 into the community. The fund is currently embarking on the “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign to raise $2.018 million by the end of Bath’s bicentennial year, 2018. For more information, contact Jody Miller Konstand, advisory board chair, at 330-618-4477 or jmkmedia@msn.com.

Film Festival evolves to save Everett

As cyclists, runners, equestrians and four fire departments have united to save the eastern portion of Everett Road, a new event has been planned. The Reel Cycling Film Festival will take place on Nov. 4., at the Highland Theater in Akron.

The event is being hosted by the Northeast Ohio Safe Trails & Routes (NEO Star), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, which was formed following the announcement that the Summit County engineer planned to vacate the historic Everett Road segment.

Scenic Everett Road has connected the Cuyahoga Valley to Richfield, Bath, Hinckley and Medina since 1840. The goal of NEO Star is to build a greater sense of community while generating funds for the continued maintenance of local thoroughfares in need of repair.

Marilyn Stonum, a Bath resident and NEO Star director, said, “Anyone who travels through the valley has, at some time, used these routes, and community support for repair is growing. Proceeds from the sale of tickets to the Reel Cycling Film Festival will be dedicated to funding future maintenance costs once these routes are restored.”

Visit reelcyclingfilmfestival.org for more information.