



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Summer 2025
Issue 5

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES

Major Construction Period in Bristol Underway

A two-year phase of significant construction is now in progress in Bristol.

- Work on the new water tower, the installation of new water mains, and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant are making good progress and are about 25% complete.

The projects expected to have the most substantial impact on traffic in Bristol this year include the relocation of:

- Gas lines
- Electric lines
- Frontier and Comcast communication lines



These relocations are paving the way for INDOT's replacement of SR 120 and SR 15 through our downtown areas. The INDOT project is set to begin in Spring 2026 and will continue until Spring 2027.

Project Updates

- **NIPSCO Substation Construction:** The construction of the NIPSCO substation and the accompanying large steel pole infrastructure is set to be completed by late this fall. Currently, the remaining poles to be installed are located along Ponderosa, Mottville Road, and CR 4.
- **Street Reconstruction Plans:** The Town is preparing to reconstruct both St. Joe Street and Elkhart Street between Division and Ponderosa. This project will also include the installation of new water mains and is scheduled for late summer.
- **Business Route Update:** The Town Council has approved the acquisition of right-of-way to connect Earthway Blvd. to Bloomingdale Drive. This connection aims to provide a faster route for commercial vehicles and is expected to meet the criteria used by INDOT to justify a traffic light at Division Street.
- **Development Proposals:** The vacant lots on Main Street next to the bridge are set to be addressed, as the Town Council plans to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for new development in that area. The RFP is anticipated to be finalized by late summer.
- **Water and Sewer Rate Increase:** The Council postponed the increase originally scheduled for May 1st until August 1, 2025. This extension allows for further evaluation of current rates to better assess the necessity for another increase. The Council plans to review this data during their Council meeting on July 3 at 7 PM.

Bristol is undergoing significant infrastructure changes, representing an estimated investment of over \$40 million. For the next two years, living, working, or driving through Bristol will be inconvenient. However, once these projects are completed, the town will benefit from modernized water and wastewater facilities, a revitalized main street, newly paved residential streets, and upgraded electrical infrastructure to support new homes and businesses. As the projects wrap up, residents will have the chance to tour the new water tower site and the wastewater treatment plant. For the next 24 months, patience will not be an overrated virtue.

Schedule for Town Council & Park Board Meetings

Town Council meetings are held on the **1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM** at the Town Hall.

Park Board meetings take place on the **1st Tuesday of every month at 6 PM**, also at the Town Hall.



Visit our website to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events!



MOVIE NIGHT AT THE PARK

JUNE 28TH | CONGDON PARK BRISTOL



By the time you receive this newsletter, this event may have already passed –but don't worry! More great events are coming throughout the summer. Stay tuned by following us on Facebook and checking our website for the latest updates!

Clerk-Treasurer Cathy Antonelli

If you are new to the area, we would like to say "Welcome!" A quick note about utility (water/sewer) bills. The payments are due on the 15th of each month. We offer multiple payment methods that include: pay by text, online, auto-deduct, call the office to pay by phone and good old-fashioned check or cash in the payment drop box located inside the Municipal Complex doors off of the parking lot. Please reach out to our office if interested in changing your method of payment to one of the above-mentioned options.

We are in the process of replacing our older water meters, and with that is an option to log in to an app called Waterscope to view your water activity. This tool is helpful in allowing residents to see where their usage is highest and possibly in finding a leak situation faster than receiving a bill in the mail with an above average usage amount. If you have not yet registered for the waterscope app or have an interest in seeing if your meter has been changed, and this is an option for you, please stop by the office Monday – Friday 8:00a-4:00p or call us at (574) 848-7007 ext. 3 or 5.

BUSINESS SHOUT OUT!

BEFORE



AFTER



KIBBE CHEM TANK REMOVAL

Park Board



Summer is in full swing, and our parks are buzzing with activity!

We were thrilled to partner with the library for their Annual Summer Fest—a fantastic event that brought families together for music, games, food, and fun. A huge thank-you to everyone who came out and helped make it such a success!

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events on the horizon, including the always-popular Bristol Homecoming Festival, the tasty and fun Corn Dog Festival, and other community favorites. Be sure to watch the Town's Facebook page for updates, schedules, and event details as they're announced!

We're also making thoughtful improvements to our parks:

- Congdon Park will soon be getting additional seating to make the space more inviting and comfortable for parkgoers. Whether you're relaxing by the water, enjoying a picnic, or watching an event, we hope this makes your visit even better.
- Last year, we completed several upgrades to the kayak launch at Congdon Park, making it easier and safer for everyone to access the river and enjoy time on the water.
- Plans are in motion to expand parking areas across our parks and plant native trees and flowers to support pollinators and add beauty to our shared green spaces.

Thank you for continuing to make our parks a vibrant and welcoming part of our community!

**The 2024
drinking
water report is
available on
the Town's
Website**



Park Board Members

Mikel Ropp, President
Scott Dreamer, Vice President
Linda Powell, Member
Andrew Medford, Member
Rosemary McDaniel, Secretary



The Bristol Food Pantry is open every Thursday during the following hours: 9:00–11:00 AM, 1:00–3:00 PM & 6:30–8:00 PM. Also open on the third Saturday of each month for added convenience!

Life Resources, in partnership with The HUB, is here to provide support when you need it most.

Life Resources, in partnership with The HUB, is committed to walking alongside you. If you could use support, please call us at 574-390-0976. We're here to help—because everyone needs a little help sometimes.

**Bringing hope, healing,
and wholeness to Bristol**

MARSHAL STEVE PRIEM



The second week of May was National Police Week. You may have spotted special flags being flown in our downtown area. These flags were donated by a local organization to show their appreciation to our department. We appreciate the community for their support during this week and every week of the year. Thank you!

On May 23rd, the Bristol Police Department, in conjunction with the Town of Bristol, hosted the Elkhart Christian Academy 3rd grade class on a tour of the police department. Officer Smith and K-9 Raider were a huge hit with the kids! They got to see the offices of the Police Department, how the day-to-day operations work, and the inside of a police car. We thoroughly enjoyed having the class visit the Police Department.

On Friday, May 25th, we had two of our newest officers, Vincent Ambrose and Patrolman Chandler Pittman, graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, Indiana. We currently have our newest officer, Joshua Dibley, enrolled at the academy with graduation in late August. We wish him luck and congrats, gentlemen. The Bristol Police Department is proud of you.

We would like to take a moment to thank each person involved and who attended the first annual Bristol Summer Fest for making this a successful event. This is what makes Bristol such a special community.



FIRE CHIEF NIK KANTZ



Everyone here at the Bristol Fire Department is looking forward to another great summer! Bonneyville Mill is always a big draw, as is our hometown festivals and the Homecoming fireworks. As with all outdoor summer activities, we would like to take a moment to remind everyone about staying safe in the sun, heat, and humidity of summer.

The signs and symptoms of dehydration are often not readily noticed by a majority of the population, but there are some telltale signs that would clue you in on the fact that you may not be drinking enough water. One of the first signs to indicate possible dehydration is a dry mouth with thirst and a lack of urination. Prevention of this is to drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you're not thirsty. The guzzling of water when thirsty is actually highly detrimental and is not recommended. Coffee, soda pop, and energy drinks usually contain caffeine, which is a diuretic (and makes you urinate), and, therefore, does not qualify as water. There are few things on this earth that are capable of replacing the water in our bodies than water itself.

Another summertime item to keep on hand is sunscreen. As you may have noticed, every brand of sunscreen on the shelf has what's called "SPF" written somewhere on the label. This stands for "Sun Protection Factor," and this essentially informs the buyer of how much sun protection they will receive from a particular sunscreen product. The higher the SPF, the greater the sun protection. People who have fair skin, the young and the elderly, or those who are naturally susceptible to getting sunburns, would reap the most benefits from wearing sunscreen. The Skin Cancer Foundation does recommend that you reapply your sunscreen every two hours, particularly after swimming, sweating heavily, or drying yourself with a towel.

On another unrelated note, the Bristol Fire Department will again be participating in the United Way "Great Cardboard Boat Race," which will be held at the LaSalle Bristol pond, located on County Road 17, on Friday, August 15th, 2025. Due to our competitive nature and cardboard boat building skills, we have won the First Responder's Heat two years in a row now and are looking to make this year a three-peat! If you're able, we would really enjoy seeing some of our local residents show up for a good time and a good cause, while helping to cheer on your local fire department.

Should anyone have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Bristol Fire Department by phone at (574)848-4155 or visit the station at 405 E. Elkhart St., Bristol, IN, 46507. Business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, our station is always manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Bristol Town Hall
PO Box 122
Bristol, IN 46507



The Bristol Municipal Complex will be closed on the following holidays:

- Independence Day - Friday, July 4, 2025
- Labor Day - Monday, September 1, 2025.

Town Hall Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Summer Community Events and Reminders

July 10-12

- Bristol Homecoming / Congdon Park

August 16

- Bristol Library Car Show / Congdon Park

July 18-26

- Elkhart County 4-H Fair

August 14

- First day of school.

September 6

- Corndog Festival /Congdon Park

Town Council

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Dean Rentfrow, Council Member
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Town meetings are available for live viewing on YouTube. You can find the link on our website.



574-848-7007

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www.bristolindiana.org