



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

HAPPY 2026 NEW YEAR

Winter 2026
Issue 7

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES

We made it through 2025! Last year was all about moving utilities—water mains, natural gas lines, electric lines, overhead Comcast lines, and fiber optic cables. Think of it as the warm-up before the big game. Now, in 2026, the real action begins.

Big INDOT Project Starts in March

INDOT will kick off the full reconstruction of the two State Roads that run through Bristol. This is a major project, and it’s happening in phases. We’ve included the phase breakdown and approximate dates in this newsletter. Keep in mind—these dates may shift as work progresses.



New water tower column completed, work starts on tank soon.

What does this mean for us? Detours and traffic congestion will be part of our summer again. At different times, both bridges will close for intersection work. And yes, the entire project won’t wrap up until 2027. It’s a long road, but the end result will be worth it.

Water Tower Progress

Our new water tower is coming along nicely. Right now, the tank is being built on the ground. Later this year, it will be lifted into place—a process that will take an entire day. We’ll share a time-lapse video so you can watch the magic happen! In September, the old tower will come down in a quick, controlled fall. It’ll be precise, fast, and I expect pretty exciting to see.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new wastewater treatment plant started initial operations in late December. Construction of the lab, office, and maintenance building is underway. When everything is finished, we’ll host an open house so you can tour the facility and learn how Bristol treats wastewater. It’s a fascinating process!

Town Street Work

We’ve got one street project on the calendar for 2026: Elkhart Street between Division and Ponderosa. This includes installing a new water main, which adds a few extra weeks. We tried to squeeze this into 2025, but it just wasn’t possible. We’ll do our best to avoid conflicts with INDOT’s work.

Future Connector Street

We’re still working on right-of-way purchases for the new connector between Earthway and Bloomingdale. You’ll find the engineering drawing in this newsletter. We will again be asking INDOT to approve a stoplight at this intersection, we believe traffic volumes will justify it. Construction is expected in 2027.

Schedule for Town Council & Park Board Meetings

Town Council Meetings:

Held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

Park Board Meetings:

Scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6 PM, also at the Town Hall.



Town Manager update -continued

Growth & Opportunity

Interest in Bristol is high. Developers- commercial, retail, and residential—are looking at opportunities here. The prospect of a revitalized Vistula Street and downtown area after INDOT’s project is attracting new business inquiries. The Earthway/Bloomingdale connector and stoplight will help reroute truck traffic away from downtown.

The recent redevelopment along South Division Street is just the beginning of what we expect to see in that area in the near future. Bristol is continuing to grow at the edges and downtown is getting new interest as well. We’re aiming for a perfect balance: small-town charm with a strong commercial tax base.

What Can I Do?

We know construction can be frustrating, but here’s how you can help Bristol thrive during this transition:

- Support Local Businesses – Walk the extra block, navigate around barricades, and shop local whenever you can.
- Stay Informed – Follow town updates on our free phone app -Our Town Bristol, the Town website, and Facebook page for up to date detour and construction information.
- Be Patient & Safe – Slow down in construction zones and watch for workers and pedestrians.
- Spread Positivity – Encourage friends and neighbors to keep supporting Main Street businesses.

We’re in this together, and the end result will be a better, stronger Bristol. Thanks for your patience and support as we move forward!

New Signs Around Town



Clerk-Treasurer Cathy Antonelli

As we begin a new year, we want to ensure our utility records are accurate. Throughout the year, residents may move or update their mailing address, phone number, or email. Keeping this information current helps us reach you when needed.

Please contact our office to verify or update your details. You can speak with Denese or me during regular business hours:

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Need an after-hours option or prefer email? Just let us know—we’re happy to accommodate!

☎ Phone: 574-848-7007 extension 3 or 5

✉ Email: townclerk@bristol.in.gov



Christmas Tree Collection Notice

The Street Department will be collecting Christmas trees through Monday, January 26. Please place your undecorated tree at the curb for pickup. All lights, ornaments, tinsel, and stands must be removed prior to collection.

If you have any questions, please contact the Street Department at 574-304-2218



COLD



When temperatures drop to freezing, take proactive steps to prevent pipes from bursting. A few simple measures can help avoid costly damage:

- Open cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.
- Let water trickle—no more than the size of a pencil lead—to keep water moving.
- Wrap exposed pipes for added insulation.

These precautions can save you from inconvenient and expensive repairs during cold snaps.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and connected!

MARSHAL STEVE PRIEM



On Saturday October 25th the Bristol Police Department participated in the Touch a Truck Event that was held at Congdon Park. Our officers passed out candy to over 650 children. We enjoyed seeing all the children (and adults) in their costumes. We would like to thank everyone that attended this event for making it safe and fun for our community.

Saturday November 8th, 2025, the department held our defensive tactics training at the Bristol Elementary School's gymnasium. Defensive tactics train our officers' techniques and strategies to control aggressive individuals safely, focusing on de-escalation, self-protection, and using minimal force necessary. All law enforcement officers are required to participate in this yearly training. We thank Bristol Elementary for the use of their space for us to hold this training.

On December 9th, 2025, the Bristol Police Department held our annual Shop with a Hero event to help children in our community have a brighter Christmas. The children got to ride on a Charter Bus taking them to Meijer in Dunlap to shop. They then came back to Bristol Community Church for a pizza party. The children and officers had a great time interacting with each other. Our department would like to thank Meijer, Bristol Community Church, Mancino's and Cardinal Bus for their generous donations. We cannot hold this event without your support. Thank you!



Truck and Treat Event
Keeping Bristol safe—even from
green troublemakers



Shop with a Hero Event

FIRE CHIEF NIK KANTZ



The Bristol FD would like to take a moment to mention and sincerely thank every single local company and organization who had generously helped to support our annual 2025 Toys for Tots campaign through the donations of items for raffle, money, and/or toys; (listed in alphabetical order): Alliance Sheets, Amoco, Barletta Boats, Collins & Co., Forest River Fishing Group, Grand Design RVs, Handy Spot Liquor, Harding's Friendly Market, JaRisa's Fun Zone, Mancino's Italian Eatery, Martin's Ace Hardware, Northridge High School, Red Bird Tavern, Satellite Industries, Someplace To Shoot, Tackle Shack, and Varns & Hoover Hardware. In addition, we would also like to thank each and every individual who graciously helped to donate money towards our cause of purchasing new toys. Because of your selfless generosity, we were able to successfully raise over \$6,868.54. We couldn't have done it without you!

But we would be greatly remiss if we didn't also tip our hats to the welcome participation and fierce competition received from: Concord FD, Osolo Twp FD, Osolo EMS, Jefferson Twp FD, New Paris FD, Jackson Twp. EMS, and Goshen FD, as well as a huge thank you to the Elkhart PD for escorting our First Responder Toys for Tots Parade on the morning of Saturday, December 6th, as we successfully delivered our collected toys to the Toys for Tots drop-off location at Grand Design on County Road 17.

Onto other news... As we wrap up another year and look forward to the New Year, we would like to remind everyone that since it's still snowy and cold, to keep fire safety in mind. It is recommended that all smoke detector batteries be replaced annually on the same date each year (pick a date that is easily remembered: a birthday, an anniversary, a holiday, etc.).

Both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors commonly expire 10 years after the date of manufacture and should be replaced. These expiration dates are usually found on the back side of each detector. Chimneys and stovepipes need to be cleaned annually before use to help prevent devastating chimney fires. When using space heaters, please take the time to read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for safe use and placement. It is well worth mentioning that a house fire doubles in size every 30 seconds; therefore, seconds truly do count for you to get out. Practice your evacuation plan and have a safe meeting place for everyone to meet.

Also, please keep in mind that during times of low light (sunrise or sunset), rain, snow, foggy, or any other inclement weather conditions, that it is extremely important for all drivers to be sure to turn on their headlights. Just because you can see the road well enough to drive doesn't mean that other drivers will be able to see you. Many motor vehicle accidents can be avoided if you take a moment to make sure that your headlights are on before you hit the road. The amber (yellow) parking lights or marker lights do not count, as they are not nearly as bright or distinguishable as your bright white headlights.

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.



The Town would like to extend our sincere thanks to our Fire and Police Departments for everything they do for our community. Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment to keeping our residents safe are truly appreciated. Thank you for your continued service.



Bristol Town Hall
PO Box 122
Bristol, IN 46507

Town Hall Office Hours:

303 E Vistula Street
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



The Bristol Town Hall will be closed on the following holidays:

- New Years Day - Thursday, Jan 1st
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, Jan 19
- President Day - Monday, Feb 16



As we welcome a brand-new year, we hope 2026 brings joy, connection, and plenty of reasons to get outside and enjoy our town. To help kick off the year with fun and community spirit, we have a few activities planned that everyone can enjoy!

January

Bundle up and make the most of winter. Build a snowman in Congdon Park or take a ride down the sledding hill with family and friends.



February

Celebrate kindness all month long. Keep an eye out for heart-shaped rocks and other small surprises along our Kindness Rocks Trail—and take a walk to add a little joy of your own.



March

Join us for a community Shamrock Scavenger Hunt. This is a great way to get outside, explore, and enjoy some friendly fun as spring begins to arrive.



Be sure to follow our Town App and Facebook page for updates and announcements on these and all upcoming events. We are excited for everything 2026 has in store and look forward to the many opportunities it will bring to connect, create memories, and continue building a strong, vibrant community together.

Looking for Assistance?



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!

The HUB is here to lend a hand when you need it most—whether it's support, resources, or even help with food.

If you or someone you know could use a little extra help, give us a call at 574-390-0976. We're here to walk alongside you—because everyone deserves a helping hand sometimes.

Town Council

Jeff Beachy, Council President
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Cathy Burke, Council Member
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Cathy Antonelli - Clerk Treasurer
Mike Yoder - Town Manager
Jill Swartz - Assistant Town Manager & Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Tim McCandless - WWTP Dept.
Eric Funkhouser - Street Dept.

574-848-7007

303 E. Vistula St. Bristol, IN 46507

www.bristol.in.gov

Town meetings are available for live viewing on YouTube. You can find the link on our website.