



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XVI • ISSUE III • FALL 2015

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We're on the Web

WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR code reader by taking a photo of the above code.

OR VISIT US AT THE:

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL

8100 JACKMAN ROAD • P. O. BOX H
TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182

PHONE: (734) 847-6791

FAX: (734) 847-7809

Greg W. Stewart Supervisor
 Trudy L. Hershberger Clerk
 Paul R. Francis Treasurer
 Larry O'Dell Trustee
 Paul Pirrone Trustee
 Rick Steiner Trustee
 Nancy Tienvieri Trustee
 Dennis Kolar Building Inspector
 Alan Matlow Assessor

OFFICE HOURS:
8 AM to 5 PM
Monday-Friday

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day
 Martin Luther King's Birthday
 President's Day
 Good Friday (afternoon)
 Memorial Day
 Independence Day
 Labor Day
 Veteran's Day
 Thanksgiving Day
 Friday following Thanksgiving
 Christmas Eve
 Christmas Day
 New Year's Eve

PRINTED IN BEDFORD TOWNSHIP
Graphic and Printing services provided
by Bedford Township residents

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



On The Road(s) - AGAIN!

(A Mini Roads Committee update)

IN AUGUST 2014 the Bedford Township Board received and approved a five year **Pavement Asset Management Plan**, prepared by our engineering consultants, **The Mannik & Smith Group**, evaluating Bedford's primary county roads and the major local roads, but not the subdivision streets. Township roads were evaluated utilizing the **PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating) System**, combined with additional factors including drainage conditions, road base conditions, shoulder conditions and average daily traffic volumes. These and other factors were combined into a formula developed by Mannik & Smith Group to form a basis for prioritizing specific road repairs and improvements needed. The Plan includes recommended project timing and estimated costs by road project, spread over a five year period, amounting to approximately \$1.2 million per year for five years (\$6.0 million total).

It is the goal of the **Township Roads Committee** to review and adjust the Plan at least annually to reflect the changing conditions of our roads, and to use it as the basis for developing a running five year plan to maintain our roads in a proactive manner. Waiting until the roads deteriorate into major safety problems, as we are experiencing now, is not the most effective or efficient way to maintain our roads.

By again joining in a county-wide asphalt material purchasing plan, combining the asphalt paving needs for all townships in the county, substantial material cost savings were generated. Several of our recommended road projects were moved forward into 2014-2015 and 2015- 2016 fiscal years in order to take advantage of these cost savings. Our budgeted road projects for 2014-2015 totaled \$1.6 million, of which \$1.155 million was actually completed and paid (*the balance being carried over to 2015 - 2016*). Our budgeted road projects for 2015 - 2016 total \$2.075 million, which we hope to have completed in this fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Because by Michigan statute, the county road commission actually owns the roads in townships, all repair projects must be bid out and administered by the road commission. We do not control when completed road projects are billed to us (*by the road commission*) - we simply pay project billings when they are received by us.

You can view the updated list of township road projects on the township website at www.bedfordmi.org, using a tab on the right side of the page entitled "**Road Projects**".



Don't Forget Your 2015 Summer Tax Bills

As you are probably aware, your **2015 Summer Tax Bills** are due and payable on or before **September 14, 2015** without interest being assessed. By Michigan statute, on September 15, a 1% interest charge must be added to your unpaid tax bill, and an additional 1% must be added the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is fully paid.

Taxes may be paid by cash or check payable to the **Bedford Township Treasurer**, by mail (*using the return envelope provided*), by using our convenient drive-up window, drop box, or service counter inside the **Bedford Township Government Center • P.O. Box H, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. In addition, payments may be made by debit or credit card, and electronic check. A 3% third party convenience fee (*user fee*) will be charged. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of **Monroe Bank & Trust, Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch)**, and **First Merit Bank (Temperance Branch)**.

(TREASURER - Continued on Page 2)

(TREASURER - Continued from Page 1)

Deferred Payment For 2015 Summer Tax Bills Available

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their 2015 Summer taxes, if your household income (*taxable and non-taxable*) is \$40,000 or less. Qualifying agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. A deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the Township Treasurer's office before the September 14 deadline. If you qualify, payment of your 2015 Summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2016 without any interest or penalty added. Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's office** at **(734) 847-6791, extension 7342** for the required forms and/or information regarding the deferment process. This may be important to you, so please don't overlook it.

PLEASE NOTE: Because we are a completely separate entity from the South County Water System, we are unable to accept debit card, credit card or e-check payments for water usage bills. We can only accept cash or checks payable to the South County Water System, which we then forward on to them as a convenience to you. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

Come "C" us at your Bedford Branch Library

Copy and fax services available at a reasonable cost. Scan items to a flash drive or email address at no charge. Notary services available by appointment.

The Ultimate Cheapskate

Thursday, September 3, 2015
7:00 PM

The Friends of the Bedford Branch Library welcome **Jeff Yeager**, as seen on the NBC Today Show and TLC's Extreme Cheapskates. Yeager, a Toledo native, specializes in an off-beat blend of original humor and practical advice for living a better life by spending and consuming less. Join us as Jeff shares how to live a happier, healthier, and fuller life, but only if you're NOT willing to pay the price.



Color My World

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

If you're an adult looking for a fresh, new activity that will help bring stress relief to your busy life, try our Color My World program. Attendees of this program will learn about coloring as stress management, sample different coloring tools, and color their own masterpiece.

Free Concert!

"Singin' The Good Old Songs Again"
Sunday, September 13
2:00 PM

The Friends of the Bedford Library invite you to join us in this entertaining and fun performance! Jackie and Gary will delight us with songs, stories and sing-a-longs. Sing, clap and tap your feet along with these good old songs that you are sure to recognize and enjoy. They are talented, funny and heartwarming and sure to leave you feeling great!

Computer Basics Level 1

This six week course is designed to work with the specific requests of participants. Topics may include learning mouse/keyboard, Windows 7, internet, e-mail, MCLS catalog and downloadable books, various software, folders and documents, and saving and printing. There are no skill prerequisites. Class size is limited. Registration is required. Visit <http://bit.ly/mclstechtraining> or call (734) 847-6747. Meets Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 12 from 2:00 -3:30 pm.

Children's Storytimes for Fall

Please call the library at (734) 847-6747 or visit our Calendar of Events at <http://bit.ly/storytimesMCLS> to register! Toddler storytime (18 - 36 months) Fridays at 10:30, Preschool storytime (3 - 5 years) Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at either 9:30 am or 11:00 am, Family storytime (All Ages) Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Lego Club! 1st and 3rd Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Children's Garden Addition!

In cooperation with the **Bedford Beautification Committee** and **Monarch Watch**, the Bedford Library is establishing an official Monarch Way Station. Stations are important to provide a food source for butterflies as they migrate and the milkweed plant provides a place for eggs to be laid. We are planting perennials and shrubs, in addition to milkweed, that will attract beneficial pollinators like bees and butterflies and are looking for Bee Balm, Coneflowers, New England Asters or Phlox to add. Please contact Michele at the library if you would like to donate to the project. The station is located above the wall of the Children's Garden on the north side of the parking lot. To start your own pollinator garden, stop by the library and pick up a seed packet from the Burpee Seed Company as part of the "President's National Pollinator Initiative "just in time for fall" planting. While supplies last! ■



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Greg W. Stewart Bedford Township Supervisor

Burning Awareness, Attitude *and* Alternatives

BE AWARE. Open burning is prohibited without a permit except for the months of April, May, October and November. These open burns cannot be less than 25 feet from a structure or 15 feet from your lot line. The pile being burned cannot be more than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. These fires are permitted on Fridays 2:00-6:00 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM.



Be aware that Bonfires and recreational campfires also have restrictions, you can find all our ordinances online at www.bedfordmi.org. On the right side of the main page is a link named "Ordinances", click and search.

Please have consideration for your neighbor; there are many folks out there that have conditions that are aggravated by smoke. Many have trouble breathing and don't have the luxury of escaping the fumes in our subdivisions. For many this is much more than an annoyance, it is life threatening. There are lots of trees out there and the issue of fall clean up across the Township is a concern. A little understanding and effort to work together can go a lot further to address these problems than an outright ban, but we have to address this issue.

The Township will again have bins for leaves, sticks and twigs for the nine (9) weeks of October and November. This new approach to give our residents alternatives to burning was quite successful this spring, and we will work with the Township Board to expand the service if necessary.

Please consider using these bins that will be located at the Township Hall on Saturdays and Sundays through the burning season. There are restrictions also on the use of the bins:

1. Nothing bigger than 6" in diameter
2. No bushes, shrubbery
3. No plastic bags, approved leaf bags only
4. No Trash
5. Do not leave leaf bags beside the bins
6. Residence of Bedford Township, not for commercial uses such as lawn services and such.

Also consider other alternatives such as installing a mulching blade on your mower, checking with your waste disposal company for pick-up and curb-side leaf collection companies.

I believe that the general health and welfare of the residents is paramount. To maintain the freedom from over regulation and the state from imposing their will takes a commitment from our residents to work together. Be aware of the regulations; be aware of the needs of your neighbors. Look for alternatives to burning, not because there is a law, but because it's the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do for yourself, your neighbor and your community. *We are all in this together.* ■



Election News

By: Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

With all of the recent news about Presidential candidates for the 2016 elections, I thought I would give everyone some brief information regarding next year's elections.

MARCH 8, 2016 • PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

This election will select Michigan's presidential candidates for both the Democratic and Republican parties.

MAY 3, 2016

This election date will be used only if the schools, township, county or state decide to hold an election to place a proposal on the ballot.

AUGUST 2, 2016 • PRIMARY ELECTION

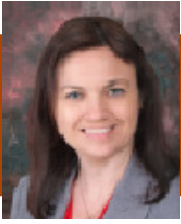
This election will determine which candidates will go on to be on the ballot for the November election. This is a big election year, with candidates for U.S. Representative, State Representative, all county and local officials, precinct delegates,

as well as any local, county or state proposal that may be placed on the ballot.

NOVEMBER 8, 2016 • PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The November 8, 2016 Presidential Election will allow voters to elect a President, U.S. Representative, a State Representative, all county and local officials, college trustees, and local School Boards of Education, as well as any local, county or state proposal that may be placed on the ballot.

In the December township newsletter, I will have more information regarding these elections, registering to vote, being placed on the permanent absentee voter list, and becoming an election inspector. ■



The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN AND WHY DOES THE TOWNSHIP NEED ONE?

ON APRIL 7, 2014 the **Steering Committee, Planning Committee, Township Board, The Mannik & Smith Group** and **Reveille Planning Team** met to introduce themselves and ask questions before the Master Plan Steering Committee began their work on the Master Plan Draft.

The first Steering Committee meeting was held on May 19, 2014; the survey monkey was created for the residents of Bedford to comment and was presented in October 2014.

The two Public workshops were then held at the Bedford Sr. High School on December 3, 2014 and on February 5, 2015. Photos were taken by the Steering Committee members and also used for the Master Plan discussions.

On June 29 the Master Plan Steering Committee met and approved the draft Master Plan Update.

On July 8 the Planning Committee approved the document with a few revisions.

Then on August 4, 2015, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (P.A. 33 of 2008), the Township Board approved the distribution of the Bedford Township Master Plan Draft to each municipality contiguous to Bedford Township as well as other agencies including Monroe County, public utility company, railroad company, and public transportation organizations owning or operating a public utility, railroad, or public transportation system within Bedford Township. As outlined in the Act, the review period will be 63 days, followed by a public hearing, and consideration by the Planning Commission for changes and final adoption. A copy of the current draft Master Plan Update is available on the Bedford website for residents to view.

What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan recognizes existing Township land use patterns and physical constraints and directs future development in such a way as to maintain and improve the level of community public facilities and services. It provides a vision for the future and includes goals, objectives and strategies in order to achieve that vision. The Master Plan update also provides a guide line for future land use, recreation facilities, transportation, economic development, community facilities, and capital spending.

The materials and concepts in the Master Plan will be used to assist elected officials, staff and citizens of Bedford Township with making informed decisions regarding public and private land uses. It is a long range plan that assists in guiding the township over a period of 10 - 20 years. The plan is a living document that denotes the Township's vision for the future.

Who Uses the Plan?

The Master Plan is intended to be a comprehensive source that stake holders can use to understand the community and planned initiatives. The Plan will serve different purposes, depending on the interests of the user.

These users can be:

- Decision makers, such as elected officials and Township Advisory boards. They will use the Plan to help make policy decisions and take actions relevant to the goals and objectives outlined in the Plan.
- Business owners and developers in and outside of the community will use the Plan to understand the Township's approach to promoting economic development and learn



where certain types of development are most appropriately located.

- Residents of Bedford Township will use the Plan to learn about new community initiatives.
- Township staff will use the Plan as a guide for advising decision makers on Township policy questions and to guide development of work plans and new programs.

What is the Legislative Authority for the Township Master Plan?

Per the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, P.A. 33 of 2008 as amended, the Township Planning Commission "shall make and approve a Master Plan as a guide for development." "The Master Plan is not an ordinance and it does not change the zoning of property. It is policies, strategies, and goals to improve and enhance the community over a projected period of time. The

(CLERK - Continued on Page 5)

(CLERK - Continued from Page 4)

Master Plan update creates a framework for public participation and community involvement, which promotes regional cooperation and contributes to Bedford Township's quality of life.

According to the Act, "a Master Plan shall include maps, plats, charts, and descriptive, explanatory, and other related matter and shall show the Planning Commission's recommendations for the physical development of the planning jurisdiction. "The purpose of a Master Plan is to guide and accomplish development" that is coordinated, adjusted, harmonious, efficient, and economical; that considers the character of the planning jurisdiction and its suitability for particular uses, judged in terms of such factors as trends in land and population development; and that will, in accordance with present and future needs, best promote public health, safety,

morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare."

For all of their hard work, I would like to thank the following residents of Bedford Township who joined me in volunteering their time, energy and wisdom over the last year, to develop the updated Master Plan for Bedford Township.

- **Korleen M. Bialecki, Chair**
- **Dennis Jenkins, Vice-Chair and Acting Secretary**
- **Karen Fisher, Economic Development Corporation**
- **Brad Greeley, Board of Zoning Appeals**
- **John Kreuchauf, Samaria Heritage Committee**
- **Karen Kincaid, Planning Department Representative**

I would also like to acknowledge The Mannik & Smith Group and Reveille for all of their Planning help and guidance through the process. ■

Bedford Park Board News

By: John Mohr, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn, and Michele DeLaney

SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN and school is starting, so now it's time to think about what's happening at our parks for the fall and early winter season.

First, we are proud to announce that we have installed two pickleball courts at White Park, which is located at the corner of Douglas and Consear, across from Indian Creek Park. We are planning on holding an official Grand Opening of the courts on Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 2:00 pm. We will have a short demonstration of how to play the game and announcements of classes that Community Education is planning, in order to learn more about this fun sport. If you're at all interested in this relatively new sport, come join us on September 13 to find out more about it.

If you've been up Lewis Avenue, north of Erie Road, you may have driven by Ansted Park. It's on the east side of the road (*if you're traveling north*) and next to the Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery. There's some big machinery there right now, installing an extension to the existing walkway, placing three drainage culverts at the existing walkway, and preparing the central area for the planting of natural grasses/flowers. The money for this project is funded 50% by a grant the Park Commission received from the Federal Government and the rest of the monies coming from the an old expired millage for park improvement. The trail portion of the project will be completed by early fall of 2015, but the planting of grasses and flowers in the central area will not be done until 2016. When completed, the trail will be over 1 mile in length, which will give township residents on the east side of the township a close, handy, quiet place to walk, jog or run. We have written several articles about this project in the past, we are thrilled to see it finally coming together.

We had a great fireworks display on June 26, in spite of the threatened rain showers. It's our hope that everyone enjoyed seeing them as much as we enjoy being able to present them. We would like to thank everyone who assisted financially or with donated time/talents to make our fireworks shows the great event that they are. In addition, we would like to especially thank the volunteers from the Bedford

Alliance Church for coming out on Saturday morning the 27th (*in the middle of a day long downpour of rain*), to help us clean up after the event. We all got soaking wet, but with many hands helping we were able to complete the job quickly. Again, thank you for your care and concern for keeping our community clean.

We would also like to announce and welcome a new member to the Bedford Park Commission. Commissioner Joan Schockman resigned from our board on July 1, 2015, because she has moved out of the Bedford area. She was a great board member and will be missed. Her replacement is Michele DeLaney, a long time Bedford resident who has been involved with the 3-B baseball program which utilizes the White Park baseball diamonds. We welcome her to our board.

In closing we would like to remind residents of a couple of late fall/early winter events to put on your calendars. On Friday, November 27, Samaria will hold its annual Christmas tree lighting at Samaria Park, and on December 6, Temperance will have its Christmas tree lighting at Carr's Grove Park. More information on these events will be in the newspapers as we get closer to those dates.

Please contact any one of us if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about our parks. We want them to be as safe, usable, and people friendly (to both old and young) as possible. You can go to the Bedford Township website (www.bedfordmi.org), "click" on Government, then Boards & Commissions, then Park Commission. You will see the park commissioner's names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, copies of our approved minutes, and pictures of our parks. You can contact any one or all of us, we would be glad to hear from you. If you do not have access to the website, call **734.224.7323** and they will be glad to give you the same information by phone.

Remember, if you wish to reserve one of our two Community Centers or one of our six shelter houses, call **734.224.7323** for information. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Ron Whipple, Acting Chief/ Fire Inspetor
Bedford Township Fire Department

SMOKE DETECTORS should be an important part of every home in Bedford Township. Unfortunately, not enough emphasis is placed on having them or even maintaining them if they are in place. Smoke alarms save lives, that has been proven by statistics which show your risk of death due to a fire are cut in half if you have working smoke detectors in your home. Did You know that 37% of home fire deaths happen in residences that did not contain a smoke detector?



According to the National Fire Protection Association, residents should:

- Install smoke detectors inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including basements.
- Test all smoke detectors at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- A smoke detector should be on the ceiling or high on the wall, and away from the kitchen to avoid false alarms.
- Replace all smoke detectors when they are 10 years old.

Batteries in smoke detectors should be replaced at least twice a year. A good way to remember to do so is to change them when you change the time on your clocks. You can now purchase a smoke alarm that is good for 10 years, no battery replacement needed. It costs a little more, but saves on battery costs and the need to remember to make the change.

We know that smoke alarms, escape plans, child fire prevention programs, and residential sprinklers save lives. We continue to encourage everyone to take the steps necessary to ensure their homes are fire safe, today and every day. ■

The mission of the Bedford Fire Department is to save, serve, and protect the citizens and their property to the best of our ability.

Township Directory

Many people calling the township are finding that they reach a "menu" instead of the telephone receptionist. This is sometimes confusing, so in an effort to help you reach the correct person or department a list of names, titles, extension numbers and the department they work in is listed below. To reach Township offices and staff please call:

734.847.6791

and then the extension shown below.

SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT

Greg W. Stewart.....Supervisor 7321
Kim Pollins.....Administrative Assistant 7322

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT7323

Trudy Hershberger.. Clerk 7328
Garnet Francis.....Deputy Clerk 7334
Nancy Gin..... Administrative Assistant 7320

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT..... 7342

Paul R. Francis..... Treasurer 7324
Krista Jandasek.....Deputy Treasurer 7327
Cindy Baum..... Administrative Assistant 7352
Amy Hogberg..... Utilities Clerk 7332
Pam Andrews..... Part-Time 7339

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

David Manning..... Finance Director 7325

PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT..... 7331

Karen Kincaid..... Planning Department 7337
Jodi Rector.....Planning Department 7338

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 7330

Building Department Counter 7343
Dennis Kolar..... Building Official 7336
Linda Willing..... Administrative Assistant (PT.) . 7330
Steve Carnill.....Part-Time 7345
Bernie Zarb..... Part-Time 7346

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT 7353

Alan Matlow..... Lead Assessor 7329
Lewis Smith..... Assessing 7349
Dan Cervi.....Assessing 7326

ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Damon Cecil..... Supervisor/Ordinance 7350
Shayla Pitzen.....Ordinance Officer.....7341

TRUSTEE OFFICE 7344

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Detective/Sergeant..... 7315
Detective..... 7316
Deputy..... 7318

News From The Assessing Department

By: Alan Matlow, MAAO & Lewis Smith, MCAO, Dan Cervi, MCAT • Bedford Township Assessing Department

Are you looking to sell or purchase a new or existing home in Bedford Township?

ONE OF THE THINGS you should do is review the property record card/property information that is on file with Bedford Township. Many times this is over looked by both the Seller and Buyer! Doing so can prove costly. Getting information on a property that is for sale or properties in the area of the home that is for sale can help a buyer determine whether the selling price is an accurate value for the home. For someone who is looking to sell their home, checking on recent sales for similar homes will help to decide what your home might be worth on the market. We hope this information is helpful to you.

- **By Website:** Property record card/ property information can be reviewed by visiting the Bedford Township website, www.bedfordmi.org. This service is free to the public and in most cases is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note that from time to time the service may be unavailable due to maintenance.
- **By Calling The Bedford Township Assessing Department at (734) 224-7352:** All Calls are handled in the order that they are received and you will receive a response either on the day the call is received or on the next normal business day. When calling, please provide the following information: a **contact name**, and a **call back phone number**, and the **property address** and/or **parcel number** or **property tax I.D. number** if you know it. Also include the description of the information you are looking for or are requesting. Please note, someone in the Assessing Department will call if we need additional information to complete your request. Also you may be directed to a different Department for additional information. A **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** form may need to be filed, depending on the information being requested..
- **By Visiting Our Office:** We are located on the first floor of the **Bedford Township Government Center/Township Hall (Assessing Department)**. Our mailing address is: **Bedford Township Assessing Department, 8100 Jackman Road • P.O. Box H, Temperance, MI 48182-0607**. The Township Halls business hours are: **Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**. We are closed on posted Holidays. ■

GOVERNANCE vs GOVERNMENT (Continued)

By Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE of the monthly publication of the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), Larry Merrill, MTA Executive Director wrote an article entitled, "Effective Oversight of Township Operations is an Essential Function of Leadership". Mr. Merrill has been with the MTA for decades, and his expertise, understanding, and comprehensive knowledge regarding township government is second to none. Each month he seems to put his finger on the fundamental heartbeat of what is needed to effectively govern township government.

His focus has always been on governance, not government. If we view our elected representatives as "the government" then we do ourselves a disservice by giving away our responsibility to be invested in how our community or country is managed. Certainly in township government we elect a seven member Board of Trustees to make decisions and lead us in a variety of capacities. However, it should not stop there. The public has a responsibility to hold the elected representatives accountable to deliver "effective oversight" of all of the operations of the township, and to lead according to the community's needs.

Governance is how a Board exercises that leadership on behalf of its citizens. A commitment to governance is a commitment by the elected leadership to perform the public's business with integrity and honesty. America's Constitution begins, "We the People"; and President Lincoln later stated "that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth". Both documents demonstrate involvement by all citizens. Leadership of the elected body practicing governance helps "the people" to comfortably exercise their responsibility as well.

Mr. Merrill stresses leadership. It is the major factor in governance of a local body. Oversight of township operations is the responsibility of the entire Board. Each Board member is elected by the voters to be an independently responsible leader, while collectively making decisions in the best interest of the taxpayers. Certainly the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer have their statutory daily functions, but the four Trustees are also elected to demonstrate leadership in managing the township operations. Every decision and operation of how a township is managed depends on each elected person on the Board to be a leader. Board members must cooperate and collectively work for the betterment of the community. Leadership is essential for everyone to benefit from the governance of their community. ■



Bedford Township

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**POSTAL CUSTOMER
BEDFORD TOWNSHIP**

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
2015 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month
Beautification Committee	Meets 2 nd Thursday of each month
Board of Review	Meets in March and possibly in July and December
Board of Zoning Appeals	Meets 1 st Monday of each month
Fire Advisory Board	Meets 2 nd Wednesday of even numbered months • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month
Park Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month
Downtown Development Authority	Meets 1 st Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
Temperance Action Committee (TAC)	Meets 1 st Monday of Each Month • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lambertville Pride Committee	As Needed
Samaria Heritage Committee	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month • Samaria Hall (Park) at 6:30 p.m.

- **All** meeting times are at **7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated.
- **All** meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall - 8100 Jackman Road - Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The **Library Advisory Board** meetings are held at the **Bedford Township Branch - Monroe County Library System - 8575 Jackman Road - Temperance, MI 48182**.
- **Bedford Township Housing Commission** meetings are held at the offices of the **Ivor J. Lindsay Senior Housing Complex - 8745 Lewis Avenue - Temperance, MI 48182**.
- The **Township of Bedford** will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings upon one week's notice to the Township of Bedford. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township of Bedford in writing. *Please address all correspondence to: Greg W. Stewart, Supervisor - 8100 Jackman Road - P. O. Box H - Temperance, MI 48182.* You may also contact **Supervisor, Greg W. Stewart** by calling **(734) 847-6791, ext.7321**.

Township Board Meetings are broadcast on Buckeye Cable Channel 11 or 7 with a box the Wednesday after the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the following Thursday at 7:00 p.m.