



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The TOWNSHIP UPDATE

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We're on the Web
www.bedfordmi.org

Visit Us At The:
BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL

8100 Jackman Road
Temperance, Michigan 48182

Phone: 734.847.6791
Fax: 734.847.7809

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

Paul Pirrone	Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger	Clerk
Paul R. Francis	Treasurer
TC Clements	Trustee
Craig Montri	Trustee
Rick Steiner	Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri	Trustee
Dennis Kolar	Building Inspector
Alan Matlow	Assessor



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR Code Reader and scan the above code.

Township Office Directory

(Dial 734-224- and the extension or email address shown)

Supervisor's Office.....7322
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor
ppirrone@bedfordmi.org

Clerk's Department.....7320
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
thershberger@bedfordmi.org

Treasurer's Department.....7342
Paul R. Francis, Treasurer
pfrancis@bedfordmi.org

Finance Department.....7325
David Manning, Finance Director
dmanning@bedfordmi.org

Planning Department.....7331
Karen Kincaid, Administrator
kkincaid@bedfordmi.org

Building Department.....7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official
dkolar@bedfordmi.org

Assessing Department.....7353
Alan Matlow, Lead Assessor
amatlow@bedfordmi.org

Ordinance Department.....7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor
dcecil@bedfordmi.org

Trustee's Office.....
TC Clements
tclements@bedfordmi.org
Craig Montri
cmontri@bedfordmi.org
Rick Steiner
rsteiner@bedfordmi.org
Nancy Tienvieri
ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org

Fire Department.....734.847.2359
Adam Massingill, Fire Chief
amassingill@bedfordmi.org

Sheriff's Department Bedford Township
Non-Emergency.....734.847.6146
Emergency.....911
(Bedford Substation Officers)
Detective/Sergeant.....7315
Detective.....7316
Deputy.....7318

Monroe County
Non-Emergency.....734.243.7070

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

Graphic and Printing services provided by Bedford Township residents

Don't Forget Your 2019 Summer Tax Bills!

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



As you are probably aware, your **2019 Summer Tax bills are due and payable on or before September 16, 2019** without interest being assessed. By Michigan statute, on September 17, 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, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. In addition, payments may be made by debit or credit card, and electronic check, as explained below. Also, for your convenience, taxes may be paid at Monroe Bank & Trust (*Temperance Branch Only*), and Fifth Third Bank (*Lambertville Branch Only*).

DEBIT & CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

For your convenience, the **Bedford Township Treasurer's office** is pleased to accept debit card, credit card and electronic check payments for any payments you wish to make to Bedford Township for property taxes, sewer usage bills, building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits, passport fees, park facility rental fees, planning and zoning fees, cemetery lot sales and burial fees, etc. A Convenience fee (*user fee*) will be charged by a third party (*Point and Pay, LLC*) as follows: for tax payments (*only*), a user fee of 3% of the payment amount will be charged; for all other debit and credit card payments, a user fee of \$1.50 per \$50.00



increment will be charged, for electronic check payments (online), a user fee of \$3.00 for payments up to \$10,000.00, \$10.00 for payments in

excess of \$10,000.00 will be charged. Debit and credit card payments may be made at our convenient drive-up window, our service counter inside the Bedford Township Government Center, or online, using our township website (www.bedfordmi.org). E-Check payments can only be made online by using our township website.

DEFERRED PAYMENT FOR 2019 SUMMER TAX BILLS AVAILABLE

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their 2019 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 16, 2019 deadline. If you qualify, payment of your 2019 Summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2020 without any interest or penalty added. Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's office at 734.224.7342** 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: PAYMENTS FOR SEWER AND WATER BILLS HAVE CHANGED

As previously announced, effective July 1, 2019, payments for sewer bills (*payable to Bedford Township Treasurer*), and payments for water bills (*payable to South County Water System*) **will no longer** be accepted at any branch of **Monroe Bank & Trust**.

Payments for quarterly sewer bills must be made payable to: **Bedford Township Treasurer**, and mailed to **Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**, or delivered to **Bedford Township Government Center** drive-up window, drop box or inside service counter.

Payments for monthly water bills must be made payable to **South County Water System**, and mailed or delivered to **South County Water System, 9489 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI 48182**, or delivered to the **Bedford Township Government Center** drive-up window, drop box or inside service counter. ■

VOTING FACTS

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



Often times a source for reliable information is hard to find. Many myths are out there about elections and what does or does not happen. It is said that information is power, and in the interest of that we collected common questions about our election system and the State of Michigan.

Am I registered to vote?

It's good to check if you are registered to vote and here's how: Go to <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>, you will be prompted to input your name, month and year of birth and your zip code. You will then be directed to a page that will show your polling location, voting district information and upcoming election information.

If you are not on the list, but are sure you registered, call the Bedford Township Clerk's Department at 734.224.7320 to check that your application was accepted.

What ID should I bring with me to the polls?

When you go to the polls to cast a ballot, you will be asked to produce photo identification. The requirements are the result of a 1996 law determined to be enforceable by the Michigan Supreme Court in 2007. The following types of photo ID are acceptable:

- Michigan driver's license or state-issued ID card
- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Military ID with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal identification card with photo



If you do not have photo ID or do not bring it with you to the polls, you may still vote. You will simply be asked to sign an affidavit stating that you are not in possession of photo identification. Your ballot is included with all others and is counted on Election Day.

When my driver's license is scanned at the polls can private information about me be revealed?

No, only the information printed on your driver's license can be

seen by our election workers. This information is also not stored on our computers.

Who can Vote Absentee Ballot?

Anyone. Thanks to the passage of proposal 18-3 in November 2018, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. Simply contact our office before an election and request one.

Does my Absentee Ballot really get tabulated?

Yes. Absent voter ballots simply allow voters to cast ballots prior to Election Day. They, like all other ballots, are counted on Election Day. Absentee ballots are fed through a tabulator by an AV Board sequestered in a locked room.

Does the machine that takes my Ballot really accurately count?

Yes. Election law mandates that upon receiving the tabulator programming and ballots, all tabulators must be tested, not once, but twice. One of the tests is even made open to the public! These tests must show with 100% accuracy that the machine can accurately count votes that are cast for all offices and all issues.

Can the Tabulators be hacked?

The State of Michigan uses paper ballots, that are stored in an approved ballot container. The paper ballots add a layer of security in that paper ballots cannot be "*hacked*". The ballots are then securely sealed and stored in your local jurisdiction until the end of the required retention period. If protocol is followed and election results are questioned, paper ballots can always be recounted by machine or hand count to verify results.

If I register to Vote, will I get called for Jury Duty?

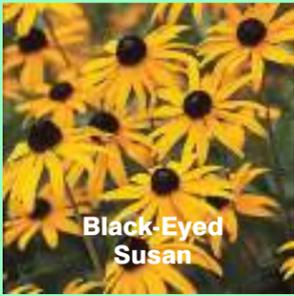
No. In Michigan, a pool of potential jurors is randomly selected from a list of licensed drivers and state ID card holders in the court's district. U.S. citizens 18 years of age and older are eligible to serve as long as they have not been convicted of felony crimes. Voter registration records are not used.

If you have further questions that need answered don't hesitate to visit the Michigan Secretary of State website <https://www.michigan.gov/sos> or contact myself or one of my staff in the clerk's office **734.224.7320**. ■

Landscaping with Natives

By
The Bedford Green Initiatives Committee

The Bedford Green Initiatives Committee recently visited the Chrysler Engine Plant in Dundee, Michigan where the company maintains approximately 100 acres in Michigan prairie. It is an impressive landscape filled with a mix of native flowering plants, grasses and some trees that feed and shelter a variety of wildlife including birds, butterflies and bees, a terrific contribution to our natural ecosystems.



Black-Eyed Susan

While plants that are native to our region are also reliably hardy and require little care, the average homeowner neither has the land nor the interest in creating and maintaining a "wild prairie" on his or her property. But all the advantages of native plants can be achieved by simply incorporating them into the landscape using traditional garden design techniques. Healthy clumps of Purple Coneflower or Black-Eyed Susan make a colorful statement in the garden as does a stand of gray-blue and red-streaked Little Bluestem grass or the stately Big Bluestem.



Little Bluestem Grass

Examples of this "landscaperly" use of native plants will be found as additions to the parking lot islands at the Bedford Township Hall. The Bedford Green Initiatives Committee has purchased some mature plants for immediate impact and will be supplementing these plantings with more varieties in future seasons. A list of the natives that are planted will be available in the Township Hall. ■

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL!!!

By: TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

I'll admit that I am old enough that I can still remember hearing Hank Williams Jr singing that for Monday night football and running into the family room so I could sit with my dad and watch the game. I would time my jump into this lap right when I would sing along, "all my rowdy friends are here on Monday night!" So what does that have to do with me being YOUR Trustee and neighbor? A lot, and I will explain.

One of the things I love most about football season is the time of year. People naturally seem to gather around grills, fires, big screens, tail gates, etc. As I am a people person I love to engage with other people. Talking and laughing is what often defines so many of our greatest of memories. As a world today we often don't laugh enough. We are so serious, so on guard, so often cautious about everything that it seems as though the joy of laughter is missing from many people's daily lives. Division in our world seems to force us to be on guard about almost everything.

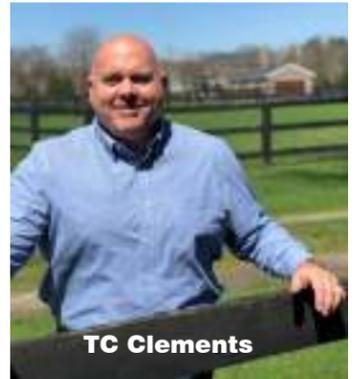
Football however, is a subject that we can still joke about, tease our peers, and enjoy needling one another over who is best, better, or worst. It is a subject that millions of American's flock to because it compels us to engage with one another. Everything about it promotes conversation, debate, analysis, and dissection. And yet, we can do all of those things, still shake hands, hug it out, and walk away without feelings being hurt or friendships jeopardized. So why is this different than so many other types of conversation?

We live in a world where we have hyper exaggerated words. Language is not simply used to relay a thought, share an idea, etc. It has become almost a weapon by which people dissect and read between the lines on virtually everything. We are uber sensitive to "what was meant" vs "what was said." Many tend to want to over diagnose statements that we disagree with. Some are prone to often "read between the lines" when nothing was ever intended to exist between the lines to begin with. Our civility towards one another has seemingly decreased as many engage with each other digitally and communicate things via a keyboard that often would not be said in person.

Prior to smart phones and digital feeds, we used to talk to 10-30 people a day and that was our social interaction. Now, we see the feeds of hundreds of people that we are loosely connected with. That stimulus, for many, compels a response. These responses are done to get noticed. Getting noticed requires you to stand out and standing out involves either being clever/funny or shocking. For many shocking is the road that they take and this leads to digital communication that is largely aggressive and not friendly in nature. In short, we have allowed technology to shape the manner and tone in which we communicate. Because we communicate digitally in snippets, emoji's, etc. what started as brevity has shifted to being terse.

Being raised by my grandmother I can still hear her say, "if you don't have anything nice to say then say nothing at all." And from there I have taken that concept and teach my children that when faced with being right or kind, be kind. Football provides us a season of friendship, comradery, unity, and passion. Imagine if we could harness those same things in other areas of our world?

As YOUR Bedford Township Trustee I work hard to ensure that by example I represent you well. That I am quick to praise and slow to attack. Thoughtful in my words and while I don't have a funny bone in my body...I still try! I will always work hard to represent my neighbors in a civilized manner. Not weakness, not timidity, but respectfully, passionately, appropriately. ■



TC Clements

News From The Assessing Department

• Alan Matlow, MAAO • Christine Eichler, MAAO • Kelly Elmer, MCAO •
• Therese Vitale, MCAT • Pete Carey •

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP'S ASSESSOR encourages its property owners to stop in and review their property records if they have questions or concerns. Doing so may reduce the need to appear before the Township Board of Review for a valuation appeal. Assessing staff can help ensure that the records are accurate. If something is incorrect, those items can be corrected to reflect what is actually on the property. It is important to remember that more than 13,800 parcels are valued annually. It is impossible to visit them all each year, so its important for taxpayers to help in bringing inaccuracies to our attention.



Michigan's property tax system was instituted early in our history and provides funding for education, state and local government. The system relies on the determination of Fair Market Value. In order to maintain the system's integrity, routine property visits are necessary and are made by the three agencies charged with maintaining the property tax system.

The local Assessor determines the value of each parcel annually. To accomplish this, a mass appraisal system (based on a state approved construction cost manual, modified by similar sold properties) is used. The costs used to value buildings require exterior measurements of the buildings, and relies on property visits to accurately catalog the property's land and building attributes (record card review).

The Monroe County Equalization Department determines proper overall assessment levels for each unit in each property class within the county. Equalization studies are used to make these determinations, and also require property visits of sold properties and/or appraisals on random samples selected each year. Value conclusions are made using the same cost manual and procedures that the assessors are required to use.

The State Tax Commission (STC) through the Property Services Division monitors both the Assessor and Equalization Department through the annual assessment cycle. Staff may make random property visits in the monitoring process, which leads to the STC determination of the State Equalized Value (SEV). Value conclusions are made using the same cost manual and procedures used by Assessors and Equalization.

These routine property visits depend on property owner participation. The property tax system relies on a three-tiered check and balance process that requires visits to maintain its integrity. As a property owner, you may choose whether to participate. Keep in mind that non-participation does not relieve the Assessor of valuing your property. We must estimate the attributes of a home when it cannot be visited and this can also lead to inaccuracies. We hope you will participate because accurately cataloging a property's land and building attributes for the record is beneficial to the property owner and essential to the property tax system.

As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to stop in, visit our website at www.bedfordmi.org or call us 734.224.7353. ■

Interesting Bedford Facts!

The headstone pictured is located in front of the Samaria Park Community Center and belongs to the namesake of Samaria. Do you know who that was?

(For the answer please see page 4)

A special thank you to Trudy Urbani and Don Adams for allowing us to use photos and information from their books.



Videos on Bedford Website: www.bedfordmi.org

You can access the videos of the Township Board Meetings on the website. On the left side of the home page under Quick Links, "click" on Video of Bedford Township Board Meetings, then "click" on the date you want to view.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel and never miss the Township Board Meeting! You can also watch our Townhall meetings, informational videos and many other interesting meetings. To subscribe, visit our website at www.Bedfordmi.org and click on the link on the front page. ■



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor

Let's Talk Growth!

Bedford Township officially was designated as a township in 1836 with about 60 families. After 183 years our population has now grown to approximately 31,500 and is projected to be 35,000 by the year 2045 according to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Bedford parcels have grown to over 14,000 with a taxable value of over 1.1 billion dollars. Bedford has never experienced hyper-growth like other townships, but we have had growth that was needed for Bedford to prosper.

In 1994 we had a population of 24,616. This is when housing starts were at a high because Proposal A had cut property taxes in half, thus fueling the building boom for new single-family homes in many parts of the State of Michigan. During the growth years from 1994 to 2006 Bedford became an attractive area to live because of low property taxes, good schools and a rural feel. In addition, businesses were starting to look at Bedford Township in a positive way because of the growth in housing and population the township was experiencing at the time.

Housing starts from 1994 to the start of the Great Recession in 2006 averaged 200 homes per year. With that amount of new homes being built, the township saw new businesses come in like Kroger, restaurants, offices and retailers. Locally owned businesses expanded, major chains-built outlets and the Industrial Park was filling up.



In addition, Bedford's close proximity to Ann Arbor, Detroit and Toledo made it possible for people to live in Bedford and commute to these areas for jobs.

With new roof tops came more traffic, additional road maintenance and development issues. These were the same concerns in 1956 when Green Hills was developed and they are the same concerns we have today. The answer to these concerns then and now is that intersections have been reworked, roads widened, traffic control updated and improvements to land planning. The township master-plan also continues to develop to allow for responsible growth.

However, the Great Recession that started in 2006 and took hold by 2007 changed Bedford Township economically. Housing starts fell dramatically from an average of 200 per year to only 78 in 2007. Housing starts continued to decline reaching a low of just 24 in 2009. Since then, we have made steady increases through this year, although we are well under pre-recession levels. Average from 2007 thru projected 2019 is around 70 new single homes per year.

During the recession unemployment rates went up, businesses closed, foreclosures were occurring and with declining home values people moved to other areas to find jobs. Through all this Bedford Township has survived and property values are going up. Foreclosures have dropped drastically and new businesses have come to the Township. Bedford though, is not in an accelerated period for homebuilding we are the bright spot of Monroe County. Monroe County had roughly 225 housing starts in 2018 Bedford had 77 of those. This is projected to be the same or higher in 2019.

People will ask... why doesn't the township stop development? The township cannot just stop development. First remember a developer or owner of a business cannot buy a piece of property if it is not for sale. If someone wants to sell property to a developer or business, they have a right to do so. The Township cannot infringe on any individual's right to sell their property to stop development for homes or commercial sites. As much as we would all like to see the farm fields remain or wooded properties stay, the Township does not purchase property to stop development or preserve it unless for a park. The only thing the Township does is vote to re-zone a property if a zoning change is needed. If a property is already properly zoned to begin with, the Township cannot stop a project. Not all properties that come for rezoning are approved. It has to fit with the master plan and make sense for the community.

People will ask... why are home developments automatically approved? They are not automatically approved. It can take several years for a development to be approved and at any time in the process it can be changed or disapproved. The process for approval involves the following entities: State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Monroe County Planning Commission, Monroe County Road Commission, Monroe County Drain Commission, Bedford Planning Board, Bedford Board of Zoning and Appeals and Bedford Board of Trustees. Keep in mind, not all property is zoned for subdivisions nor do we have the water and sewer hook ups throughout the township which is needed for a development.

Why do you keep allowing Villas or Condominiums to be built? Builders will bring what the market demands. At this time, villas are in demand because of our aging population. Remember too, when a villa is built that frees up a home for a younger family to purchase and it keeps our older population in the community. We want our mature population to remain in Bedford because they continue to support our community and local business.

Why are new homes important? First, it creates additional tax base for the State of Michigan and Bedford Township. When a new home or commercial building is constructed. It is more than just a structure; it props up employment in the community for years to come. For example, when a new home or commercial building is built various building materials will be manufactured and trades people needed to build the structure. Once a structure is built and for the life of that home or building, it is going to use services for maintenance, remodeling and upkeep. From construction workers, utility workers, retailers, cleaning services, insurance agents, lawn care, fire & police, road construction, manufacturers and many others, the economic benefits continue. Business owners also make more money because of additional customers living in a community, more people are hired and there is more money for local wages and salaries.

Unlike automobiles that will one day be junked, a home (*most likely*) will be rehabilitated and sold, and will still be contributing to the economy. Look around and you will see homes that are over 100 years old and still part of our economy. In the end, a home is not just a home but a vital part in our local economy. In conclusion, the growth has been beneficial but not overwhelming.

We have come a long way since 1836 and we thank those families from 1836 that settled our Bedford Township. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

- **The Bedford Branch Library will resume Sunday hours on September 8, 2019** and will be open on Sundays from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm through May 17, 2020, with the exception of major holidays. We are also open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- **We're making progress on our improvement plan put together by the Library Advisory Board during our millage campaign in November, 2018.** Some of this is slow progress because of the planning involved and the costs associated with the work. We need time to build the Library Fund to be able to pay for the work. So far we have repaired worn carpeting that had become a trip hazard, removed trees that were impacting sidewalks and the roof, and removed dying landscaping. We are working with the Master Gardeners of Monroe County to create a landscaping plan for the grounds. We are currently finalizing plans for painting the interior of the building and will be replacing or recovering worn furnishings this fall.
- **The two largest projects for the millage money are the HVAC Controls system and carpeting.** We've had several people share concerns about the temperatures in the building so I thought I would take the time to explain our situation here. The Library building has one "thermostat" setting even though there are many zones within the building. The entire building is set to operate at 72 degrees. Reality is that this means some areas get cooler and some stay warmer depending on the occupancy, sunlight coming in windows, and other factors. We realize that this sometimes has a negative impact on the people using the space, which is why we're working on getting a controls system in place that will allow us to have control of the temperatures in different areas of the building at all times. These controls will make the building run more efficiently and be more comfortable for our visitors.
- **Your library always has great programs for all ages and interests.** Check out our online calendar at <https://mymcls.evanced.info/signup/Calendar> to see everything that's happening! Storytimes for preschoolers and toddlers resume the week of September 9, 2019. We also offer something for everyone at our after-hours events on Friday nights, including family movie nights for all ages, Fandom Friday for tweens and teens, and Genealogy Club for those doing family history research.
- **Have you heard that you can now rent the library's community room for your family friendly event?** Birthday parties, showers, family reunions, etc. The rental fee is \$250.00. For more information, call the library at 734.847.6747.
- **Back to school always means the library will be a bit noisier and more congested than normal from 2:30 - 5:00 pm on school days.** With the almost constant use of cell phones and other electronics, it is a national crisis that kids don't have enough in-person social interaction anymore, so it's a good thing they want to gather at our library to socialize. Please join me in welcoming Bedford's students back to school and to the library! ■

Passports & More...

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

Passports

Our Township Clerk's Department is a designated Passport Acceptance Facility. Our office is happy to help you with all your passport needs, simply call our office 734.224.7320 and we will gladly set an appointment for you. Applications can be picked up in our office or found online at <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information on what is required you can view our YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/mnxTuXJRbEk> or <https://youtu.be/mnxTuXJRbEk> or call our department.

Hazardous Waste Day is Coming!

Bedford Township will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Township Hall. Accepted items include: pesticides, fertilizers, automotive fluids, cleaning products, paints, flammable items, batteries, mercury-containing items, fluorescent bulbs and sharps (*in securely sealed hard containers*). As a reminder, business waste, empty containers, appliances, ammunition, garbage, debris or radioactive materials **WILL NOT BE** accepted.

Secure Document Shredding

Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8 AM to 12 PM will also be our Secure Document Shred Day located in the Jackman Road Elementary parking lot. Please note there is a strictly-enforced 100-pound limit per vehicle. Documents should be brought in a container that can be quickly emptied (*i.e. cardboard box, plastic tote*). Also please remember that while staples are okay to be left in, any binder clips and paper clips should be removed from your papers.

Free Recycling Tuesdays!

Recycling is offered every Tuesday between the hours of 7 AM - 6 PM behind Township Hall. The **RecycleNOW** program accepts flattened cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, and jugs. Please make sure your recyclables are empty, clean and dry. **RecycleNOW** is a single stream program which means all accepted items go loosely into one bin. Please toss all items in **LOOSELY AND NOT BAGGED** or stuffed inside of other items. They'll be sorted at the materials recovery facility. ■

Bedford Park Board News

By: Jerry Goodridge, Connie Velliquette, Rusty Wilke, Sally Dunn, and Carol Laurie

FALL IS UPON US! As we say goodbye to another beautiful summer, we invite you to stay active and take time to visit one of our township parks. There is something to enjoy for everyone, whether it be taking to our Pickleball, basketball or tennis courts, walking one of our trails, playing on one of the playscapes, or just sitting on a park bench to relax and take in the scenery. Get out and enjoy the outdoors!

We are excited to share with you some of the changes that have been, or will be, occurring at various parks. You may have noticed that a new handicap ramp leading to the shelter has been installed at Ansted Park. We were fortunate to have this completed by the JAWS Program of Monroe County with the assistance of the Bedford Township Maintenance personnel. White Park is having its fencing renovated. In addition, our newly acquired Wheeler Preserve is awaiting construction of a new parking lot. Once this is complete it will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

In closing, the Park Board would like to extend a big "thank you" out to our volunteers who have worked diligently during the hot summer season at Ansted Park butterfly gardens. All of their hard work is truly appreciated and we wish to personally thank George Kreft, Tom Kleman, Dayna Dec, Aubrie Zeunen, Maggie Granata, Tom and Holly Szych, Marti Stewart, Michelle Burbeniak, Grace Walsh and Dick Velliquette. Volunteers are always needed and no experience is necessary. If you would like to help contact Connie Velliquette at 419.297.1977. ■

Bedford Township Ordinance Department

As the fall season approaches, the Bedford Township Ordinance Department would like to address some issues we usually encounter this time of year.

● **FIREWORKS:** Currently, Bedford Township does not have a "Fireworks Ordinance" that our department can enforce. That being said, there is a state law, The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, which can be enforced by your local law enforcement officers. The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, which can be found online, states the times and dates that firework use is permitted. It also details the types of fireworks that are legal in the state of Michigan. Please use caution when using fireworks and remember that it is unlawful to shoot fireworks if you are intoxicated. If you encounter someone using fireworks illegally please call the **Monroe County Sheriff's Office at 734.243.7070**, or if it is an emergency call **9-1-1**.

● **BURNING SEASON:** The fall burning season begins on Friday October 4th and continues through November 30th. Burning during this time is only permitted on Fridays 2 PM to 6 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 AM to 6 PM. Our Ordinance Department will have additional staff working during the burn season to ensure the law is followed. As always, if you plan to burn any other time prior to, or after the Open Burning Season, you must get a permit. Permits can be obtained in the Ordinance Office during normal business hours. The cost for the permit is \$25.00 dollars. Burning without a permit will result in the issuance of a citation.



● **STORAGE OF TRAILERS, CAMPERS AND BOATS:** These types of vehicles may be kept on your property, provided they do not protrude past the front of the home. They are not permitted to block sidewalks or roadways. If one of the above is parked in the roadway or is blocking a walkway this is a matter for law enforcement, not the ordinance department. That being said, please be considerate of the neighbor who may own one of these vehicles and is preparing it to use for travel or getting it ready for storage. Give them a chance to take care of the vehicle before calling to report it. Many times, we get calls regarding these types of vehicles only to find the owner is doing one of the above.

● **SIDEWALKS:** If there is a sidewalk in front of your property it is your job to take care of it. That means making it safe to use for foot traffic. This would include trimming low branches or bushes that impede the flow of traffic and clearing it of snow and ice in the winter months. Blocking the sidewalk with vehicles and basketball hoops is also a violation of the law. If you should have any questions regarding the above or other ordinances please feel free to contact the Ordinance Department at 734.224.7341, 734.224.7350 or 734.224.7343 to speak with one of us. Thank you, Bedford, for all your continued support. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Next month will mark the first full year since we transitioned from a completely volunteer (*paid-on-call*) fire department to a combination *paid-on-call/full-time* fire department. We closely monitor performance within the department and are proud to report that in the past twelve months we have experienced improved response times due to the integration. In addition to reduced response times, integrating the four full-time firefighters into our existing system has improved compliance with national response standards.

As you may recall, hiring the four Firefighters was made possible when we received a three-year federal grant for the positions. Approaching the anniversary date of our new hires means we are one-third through the grant period. We consider the grant to be highly successful to date, and look forward to continued success thanks to this important initiative.

On another note, we have recently placed our new Quint apparatus in service. The new Quint apparatus is equipped with a 2,000 gallon per minute pump, 500-gallon water tank, 100' aerial platform, thousands of feet of fire attack and supply hose, and specialized rescue equipment such as the "Jaws of Life". We are extremely thankful to have such a versatile, powerful apparatus that not only makes us more effective in protecting our residents, but also provides for increased safety for our firefighters as well.

Lastly, we would like to invite you to our annual open house at Station 2 at 3445 Dean Road on Saturday, October 5, 2019. We look forward to this event each year as it provides us an opportunity to share a message of safety with everyone. The open house also allows for an up-close look at the tools and equipment we use to protect the community. Hope to see you there! ■

Interesting Bedford Fact Answer

About 1878, the area originally known as Weeksville became Samaria. It is believed the name was derived by combining the names of Samuel Weeks, who would be the first postmaster of the village, and Mary Weeks, his bride, who ran the local singing school. Sam and Mary were very well-liked and social people who liked to entertain. Thus, "let's go over to Sam and Mary's" led to the choice of the name Samaria.

Interestingly, Samuel and Mary Weeks were not buried by these headstones. It is believed that Samuel and his son, Sammie, along with a third grave, were buried behind the Weeks family homestead. In 1965 local Boy Scouts moved the two markers from there and placed them in front of the Samaria Park building.

In 2003, the graves were located with the assistance of Eagle (the Skeletal Remains Sniffing Dog). ■



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2019/2020 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month
Green Initiative Committee	Meets at 10:00 AM the 1 st Wednesday 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 Committee	Meets 3 rd Thursday of every other month – Fire Station
Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee	Meets 1 st Monday of each month at 10:00 AM
Communications/Media Commission	Meets at 6:30 PM the 2 nd Monday of each month
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM – 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 2 nd Friday of each month at 3:00 PM
Economic Development Committee	Meets at 3:00 PM the 1 st Wednesday of each month

- 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 of the 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: Paul Pirrone, Bedford Supervisor, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182.** You may also contact **Bedford Township Supervisor, Paul Pirrone** by calling **734.224.7321** during normal business hours.

Bedford 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.