



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The Township Update

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XX • Issue IV • HOLIDAY 2019

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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 L. 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

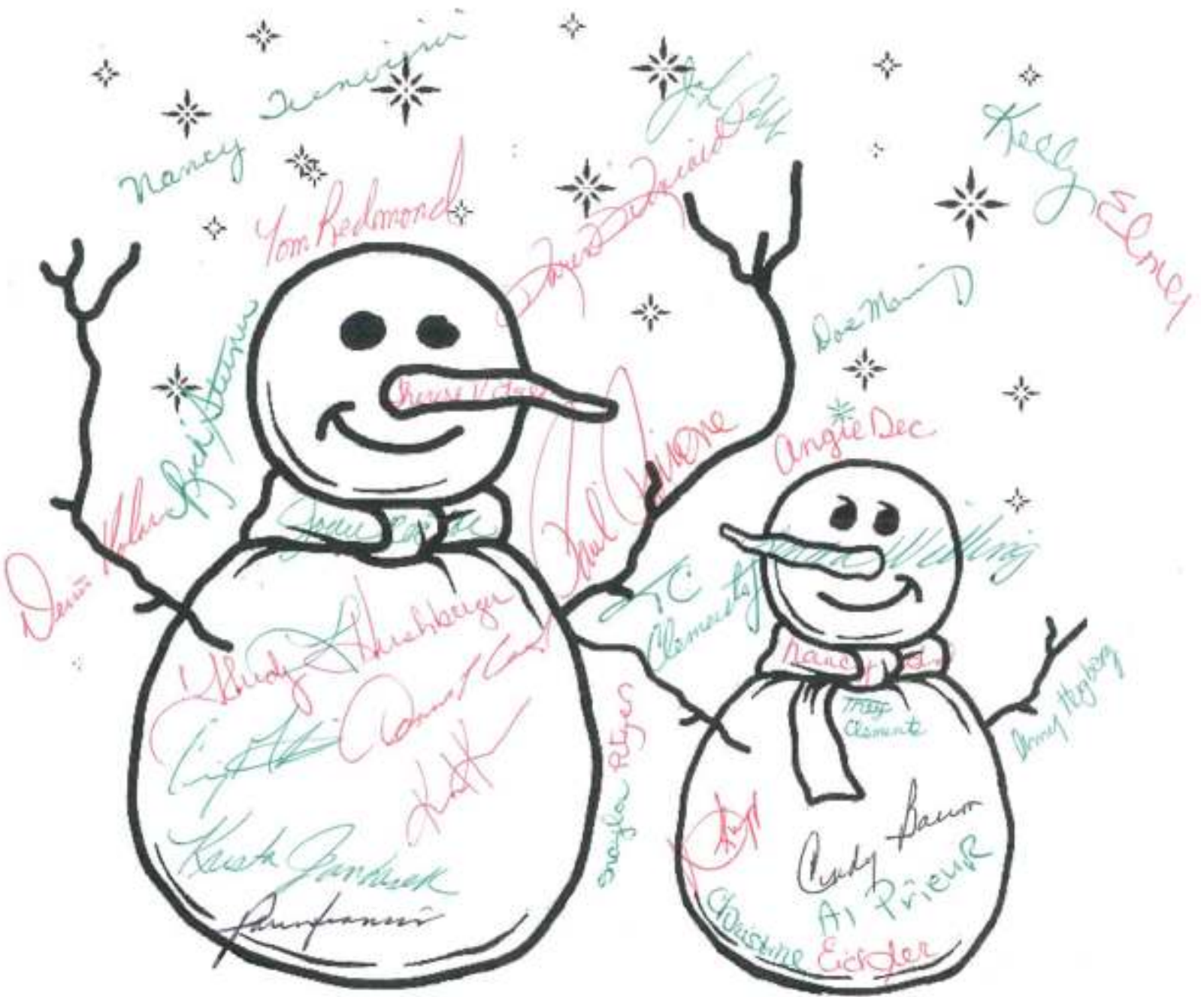
Township Offices Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays:

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

-Happy Holidays-

From The Bedford Township Board & Staff



Bedford Township Ordinance Department Seasons Greetings

WITH the winter season quickly approaching, the Bedford Township Ordinance Department would like to remind residents of our snow removal ordinance. Ordinance No. 52, Section 149.008 requires all property owners with sidewalks to remove the snow or ice from a sidewalk 24 hours after the snow has ended. The ordinance also goes on to say you are not permitted to dump or push snow into any street, roadway or highway. If the Ordinance Department receives a complaint regarding the above violations, you will receive a notice telling you to remove it. That notice will give you 48 hours to comply. Failure to do so will result in our contracted company coming out to remove the snow, and the bill will be placed on your property taxes.

Save Our Seniors (S.O.S.) Program

For those of you that are senior citizens and are unable to maintain your sidewalks due to an illness or a disability, the Bedford Township Ordinance Department has a **SAVE OUR SENIORS PROGRAM (S.O.S.)**. Please contact the Bedford Township Ordinance Department at 734.224.7350 (daytime hours) or 734.224-7343 (evening hours), and the Ordinance Department will then evaluate your case to see if we can provide assistance by one of our citizen volunteers.



If you are interested in becoming a citizen volunteer, contact Bedford Township Ordinance Supervisor, Damon Cecil at 734.224.7350. ■

As Always Have A Safe And Happy Holiday Season!

Bedford Park Board News

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

AS WINTER APPROACHES take time to visit your township parks. Walk the trails at Ansted and admire the beauty of the frozen grasses. Watch for the over-wintering eastern bluebirds at Indian Creek. Keep an eye out for the red and white-breasted nuthatches at White Park. Take a selfie with the Dinosaur at Samaria or enjoy a brisk game of Frisbee golf at Parmelee. Carr's Grove Park has some beautiful Oak Trees and is home to many squirrels. Or follow the tracks of White-Tailed Deer at Wheeler Preserve while listening for the elusive great horned owl.



Nuthatch

If you enjoy pickle ball, not to fret, it's moved inside for the season. Play on Sunday afternoons now through April in the Bedford Junior High gym from 2-5. New to the game or want to learn, it's open to all levels of players. Join the fun, \$25.00 registration fee, \$2.00 per day. Or simply pay a drop-in fee of \$5.00 whenever you stop in.



White-Tailed Deer

The Bedford Township Park Board is working on several projects at the parks, including upgrading and repairing the playground equipment. We're also working on trail grooming at Wheeler Preserve. And plans are being made for an off-leash dog park in the near future. Take a walk on the wild side! We'll see you in the park! Happy Holidays from your Bedford Township Park Board. ■



2019 Winter Tax Bills Mailed!

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



The 2019 Winter tax bills were mailed on or before December 1, 2019, and can be paid any time between December 1, 2019 and February 14, 2020 without late penalty or interest being assessed.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING WHEN PAYING YOUR TAX BILLS:

- Please make your check payable to the Bedford Township Treasurer for the exact amount of your tax bill only. We cannot accept overpayments and carry over amounts to future tax bills.
- Please **DO NOT** combine tax payments with sewer payments on one check. Each account is separate, and must be paid by a separate check.
- Please make certain that your check is dated and signed, and that the written amount and the numerical amount are identical.
- We **DO** accept partial payments on tax bills between December 1, 2019 and February 14, 2020. Interest on the unpaid balance must be added after February 14, 2020.
- If you have refinanced your home mortgage or paid off your mortgage in the last year, please call our office. Many times the banks or mortgage companies do not let us know that you have an escrow account for payment of your property taxes.
- We offer Direct Debit or ACH payment as an optional method for payment of your taxes. Authorization forms are available in the Treasurer's Department or online at www.bedfordmi.org
- For your convenience, you may pay your tax bills by mail (using the envelope provided), or in person at the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Rd., Temperance, MI (convenient drive-up window, drop box or inside service counter), the Lambertville Branch office of Fifth Third Bank, or Temperance Branch office of First Merchants Bank.
- Tax bills can also be paid by debit card or credit card (a 3% user fee is charged). We are authorized to accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, and AMEX cards.
- If your 2019 summer tax bill is not yet paid, there will be interest and penalty assessed. Please visit our website or call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department at 734.224.7342 for the current balance due.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DEFER PAYMENT OF YOUR 2019 WINTER HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAXES UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020 – IF:

- You are a senior citizen (age 62 or older).
- You are an eligible veteran, eligible service person, eligible widow/widower, paraplegic, quadriplegic, hemiplegic, totally and permanently disabled or blind.
- Your total 2019 household income (taxable and nontaxable) is \$50,000 or less.
- The taxable value of your homestead does not exceed \$135,000.

In order to qualify for deferred payment of 2019 Winter property taxes, you must file 2019 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit form MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2 with the State of Michigan, and provide the Bedford Township Treasurer's office with a copy on or before February 14, 2020, WITHOUT A COPY OF THESE FORMS, THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT GRANT DEFERRED PAYMENT. If you have any questions regarding deferring payment of your 2019 Winter tax bill, please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department at 734.224.7342.

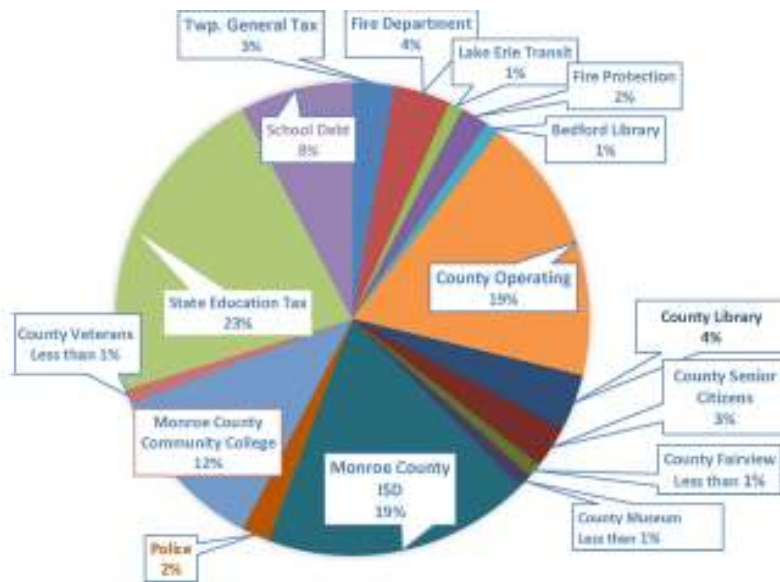
NOTE: R.S.V.P. VOLUNTEER HELP WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS in preparing these tax forms at the Bedford Township Government Center (Conference Room B) on **Wednesday (February 5), Thursday (February 6), Monday (February 10) and Tuesday (February 11), 2020** between the hours of 11:00am - 3:00pm (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY). Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department at 734.224.7342 to arrange an appointment. Walk-ins will be served on the first come, first served basis between scheduled appointments if time permits. Please bring proof (Forms W-2, 1099, etc.) of all 2019 income such as wages, social security, IRA's, pensions, interest, dividends, and any other income you may have received in 2019, plus medical health, dental and vision insurance premiums paid in 2019. You may also qualify for a home heating tax credit, so bring your home heating bill amounts for the period November 1, 2018 - October 31, 2019 (you may need to contact Michigan Gas for these amounts).

SEWER USE BILLS:

We now can offer automatic debit for payment of your Sewer Use bills. Authorization forms are available in the Treasurer's department. Payments will be debited from your account on the 7th of the month that your bill is due. For more information or questions please contact our Utilities Clerk at 734.224.7332. ■

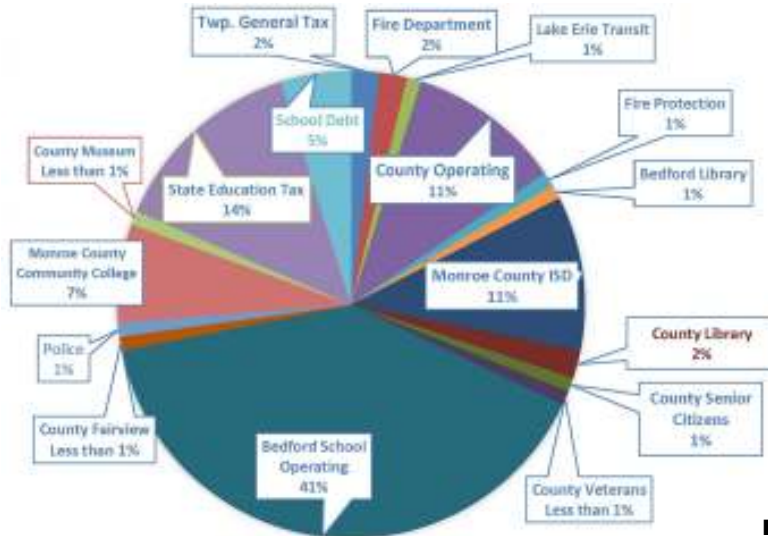
Principle Residents Exemption

(Percentage Based off of 25.5728 Mills)



Non-Principle Residents Exemption

(Percentage Based off of 43.5728 Mills)



Bedford Township Green Initiative Committee

By: Cathy Belville, Joyce Blanton, Patricia Bull, Dan Rock, Kenneth Schumacher, and Diane Smith

DOWN THE DRAIN!

MANY OF OUR HOMES in Bedford Township are not connected to the public sewer system and as such we must rely on private septic systems on our properties to dispose of domestic and human waste. But beware! A private system requires proper care and attention or you could be facing very costly repairs. And that is not even considering the possible contamination of soil as well as surface and underground water.

Both the EPA and the Monroe County websites provide excellent information on proper care for your septic system, so please check them out. In the meantime, to stimulate your curiosity consider the following brief pointers:

- Inspect and pump frequently. Depending on the size of your household and system, 1-2 years is now recommended notwithstanding often suggested 3-5 years. (The Monroe County website has a list of local inspectors and pumps).
- Use water efficiently.
- Consider high efficiency toilets and shower heads and faucet aerators.
- Spread timing of wash loads so as not to overwhelm the system and use the level of water appropriate to the load size or only wash full loads.

- Your toilet is not a trash can so never flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush or, if applicable, pour down the sink.
- Cooking grease or oil and coffee grounds. (which also suggests limited, if any, use of a garbage disposal)
- Household chemicals such as gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, paint thinners and even drain cleaners that can kill off the living organisms that digest household waste.
- Paper towels, diapers and even supposedly flushable wipes.
- Feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss and pharmaceuticals.
- Cat litter and Cigarette butts.
- Maintain your drainfield since it removes contaminants from the liquids discharged from your septic tank.
- Don't park or pave over the drain field.
- Don't plant trees too close as roots can interfere with proper drainage.
- Don't direct rainwater to the drainfield via roof drains and sump pumps. ■



Walking in a Winter Wonderland!

By: TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

LET ME START BY SAYING that I hope you all had an amazing Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a very Merry Christmas. From the Clements family to yours, we hope that this holiday season will be filled with many happy memories made with loved ones. Please be safe over the holidays and be careful on the roads if traveling.

2019 has been a full year for our township with many changes and additions. We are now 1.5 years into having an additional school resource officer. Together with the deputies already on patrol, they provide an added layer of safety to our community. We have seen the transformation of downtown Temperance and a similar project concluding in downtown Lambertville. We have worked hard as a board to maximize services and opportunities without inflating our expenditures. Our Fire Department is now better equipped to offer paramedic services and Advanced Life Saving response for our residents. We continue to benefit from skillful neighbors who faithfully serve our community as paid on call/volunteer fire fighters. We enjoy amazing parks with a new park, Wheeler Preserve, having come online. Multiple events have been added in our community to strengthen the bonds between neighbors and to provide moments where we can all gather and enjoy our community. Our schools continue to excel, and our students have gained local, state, and national attention in the area of the arts, academics, sports, and robotics. Our township roads, while nowhere near perfect, and at times treacherous during our winters, are as current and as well-maintained as they have been in decades. We have had multiple new businesses open in our community with more on the way. We have worked hard to guide our township into smart growth where businesses compliment the community and add to our residents and visitors experience without encroaching on neighborhoods.

And while our nation at times is held in the clutches of such strong animosity, hatred, and vitriolic speech, we are a community that continues to respect peers, extend kindness to those around us, and maintain virtue because it continues to be the right thing to do. We are neighbors first, and when necessary, rally around those in need, like nothing I have ever seen.

This holiday season I am beyond grateful for my faith, family and friends. I am grateful that I live in what I consider one of the most amazing places in the world. Having traveled a bit and having lived in other states I know firsthand how unique our community is. We have access to the world via Detroit International Airport and are sandwiched comfortably outside of two urban centers for almost anything we could ever want to do or see. We live on the Great Lakes and have every kind of outdoor sport one could want. We have fantastic schools, community organizations, and churches. We are surrounded by businesses that are quick to volunteer both time and money to support local causes, youth, and the community. To me, we are an example of many things that are right in our country. We are not perfect, and I would never suggest that. But at a time of year where we focus on blessings and giving, I like to reflect on how blessed I have been to live where I call home, know those I call friends, and serve **YOU**, my amazing neighbors. ■

Have A Very Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!



TC Clements

ELECTION NEWS FOR 2020

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



RESIDENTS WHO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT will notice a change this election cycle: the envelopes. Bedford Township, along with the rest of the state, will be using new absentee voter envelopes for the March Presidential Primary. The new envelopes are compatible with U.S. Postal Service standards and designed to work better with automated postal systems.

The former "craft brown" envelope will now be a white envelope with a blue stripe on the side that will arrive at voters' homes. The envelope that gets sent back to the Clerk's Office will be a white envelope with a green stripe. So, the blue stripe will mean that the envelope should be delivered to a resident and the green stripe that it could go to a municipal clerk, making it easier for the U.S. Postal Service as well.

Absentee applications for the **Presidential Primary** will be sent out to residents who are on our permanent list the beginning of January. At this time, and up until **Friday, March 6, 2020**, residents may request an absentee ballot be sent to them via first class mail. You no longer need a reason to vote absentee, only to make a request. During the first week of February ballots will then begin to be delivered to residents who have requested an absentee ballot. Residents wishing to know the status of their ballot can visit the website www.michigan.gov/vote.

We encourage residents to allow seven days for a ballot to make it back to the Bedford Township Clerk's office if they are sending it via U.S. mail. Absentee ballots can also be dropped in the drop box located on the south side of the Township building, or brought to the clerk's counter at the **Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance**.

For those wishing to vote in the polls, our **polling locations are open from 7AM-8PM, the day of the election**. If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, or the location of your precinct, you can visit www.michigan.gov/vote. This site also allows you to view the ballot specific to your precinct before you vote. ■

Important Election Dates To Remember

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Michigan Presidential
Primary Election

Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Primary Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
General Election

Happy Holidays From The Clerk's Department

Trudy Hershberger, Nancy Gin & Angie Dec



The Census and You

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

Since 1790!

Dating back to 1790, the Census has been taking place every 10 years as per a constitutional mandate. While some may fear participating in the Census, everyone should respond. Responses may be done by phone, by mail, or for the first time, this census, online.

What is the Census?

A head count, conducted every 10 years, of every person living in this country. In addition to the 50 states, this also includes the District of Columbia, and the five (5) U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Why should I respond?

The census helps with federal funding. Much of the information revealed in the census helps the federal government decide on where and how much funding to allocate to states, cities and counties for such items as roads, schools, emergency response, hospitals and healthcare. The numbers collected are also used to draw and or change congressional and state legislative districts.

What will they ask me?

- How many people are living/staying in your home April 1, 2020.
- Is your home owned or rented?
- What is the gender, age and race of each person in the household?

- Is anyone of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin in the household?

The Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep all of your answers confidential. They cannot release information to anyone about your home, your business or you, not even to law enforcement agencies. The data collected through the census can only be used to produce statistics.

What are Census Workers doing in my area?

Census workers have already been out working in our area to verify addresses and will continue to work on collecting responses, dropping off census materials and conducting quality checks after April 1, 2020.

How do I know they work for the Census?

Canvassers will always have on their person an official government badge. This ID badge should have a photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. In addition, they will carry an official bag and laptop with the 2020 Census logo on them. Workers can also be verified by contacting the Regional Census office at 800-923-8282. A census worker **WILL NEVER ASK** for: **1)** your social security number; **2)** for money or donations; **3)** for bank or credit card numbers or; **4)** for anything on behalf of a political party. If this happens call the regional office. ■

Interesting Bedford Facts!

The first United States Census was held in 1810.

Q. In which Census year was Bedford Township's population first recorded?

Q. Do you know what the current population of Bedford Township is?

Q. What do you think our population will be in 2020?

The History of Bedford Township can be found on the Township Website www.bedfordmi.org.

Information Courtesy of Don Adams

(For the answer please see page 4)



Bedford Branch Library News

By Carol Laurie, Bedford Branch Librarian

YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY NOTICED our new electronic message board sign in front of the Bedford Township Branch Library. A **HUGE** thank you goes out to our Friends of the Bedford Library for raising the money to purchase this sign for the library! The Friends are proud to have earned the money for this purchase without asking the township's library fund to pay for any of the cost. Check out the sign for reminders about upcoming programs and hours.

The holiday season is the best time to stop in your library. Our annual **Hall of Trees** make the library look so festive and the fireplace makes it cozy. Holiday hours - We will be closed on **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day**. Other than that we're open our regular hours of:

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday - 12 pm - 5 pm

Be sure to join us for a variety of events for all ages including the following:

- **Yule Ball** - Friday, December 6, 2019 from 6 - 9 pm - All things Harry Potter for tweens and teens
- **Family Movie Night** - Friday, December 13, 2019 at 6 pm The Grinch
- **Calling all Superheroes!** Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 1 pm - Boys and girls are welcome to attend and earn their superhero costume.
- **Calling all Princesses!** Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 1 pm - Which is your favorite princess? Come and celebrate her with us!
- **Family Storytimes** - Thursdays at 6:30 pm through December then at 6 pm beginning in January.
- ***New Program! Dungeons & Dragons** in the Library! Open for beginners through seasoned adventurers ages 14+. The first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm we'll be delving into dungeons, bartering with shopkeepers, conquering ancient evils, and building friendships! **NOTE:** January meeting will be Thursday, January 2 at 6 pm.
- **Classic Movies** the third Thursday of each month at 1 pm. Our movies upcoming in the new year are:
 - 1/16/20 - Wizard of Oz
 - 2/20/20 - The Misfits
 - 3/19/20 - A Raisin in the Sun
 - 4/16/20 - Easter Parade
 - 5/21/20 - Father of the Bride

Your branch library is a fantastic way to help your organization if they're doing any kind of collection of items for a local entity that needs help. These are some of the entities that we've helped with their collections:

- **Bedford Goodfellows toy drive and canned food drive to distribute to local families**
- **Great Start Initiative diaper drive** (on through December 3)
- **Backpack supplies drive for Monroe County students in September**
- **Bedford Robotics teams for supplies for outreach projects**

Check out our website at monroe.lib.mi.us/Bedford-branch-library for more information about your local library. ■

A Message From Bedford Township

Bare Perspective

WINTER is a great time to evaluate your landscaping and gardens. First, are they providing enough interest during the winter months? Great garden design enhances your

house and property year round. Second, do your gardens have good "bones"? Gardens need good basic structure and there is no better time to look at this than now, when your yard is relatively bare.



If your summer gardens are filled only with herbaceous perennials and annuals, consider adding some shrubs and small trees that can be grown in their natural forms. Or think about ornamental hardscaping such as tuteurs and trellises on which to grow vines, or perhaps an outdoor sculpture. Not only do they create some winter interest, but also provide solid bones for the garden, which leaves and flowers will later flesh out.

In winter you can also clearly see the branches of trees and shrubs and late winter is generally a good time to prune. Concentrate on eliminating dead wood and crossing or injured branches, or thinning to produce a more open, graceful habit. Note, however, that for spring blooming woody plants, if you prune back hard at this time to control size, you will be eliminating flower buds. ■



BEDFORD..... A Legacy of Giving!

From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor



THE HOLIDAYS AND THE NEW YEAR ARE QUICKLY APPROACHING.

This is one of my favorite times of the year as the holidays allow us time to relax, reflect, and look to the future. An enjoyable tradition of celebrating the holidays is giving and receiving gifts. In thinking about this concept, it led me to think about the gifts Bedford Township has been blessed with. I am always grateful and impressed by what a gift Bedford Township is to live in and the blessing the residents are who reside here.

Time after time I have seen people in this community unite and rally around causes. When a need is recognized, Bedford has responded with open hearts and open hands. Our residents who are in need know they can count on Bedford to help. This is demonstrated every Christmas by the various organizations that give food, money, and clothing. A resident recently donated land to become the new Wheeler Preserve. Residents give their hard-earned money to help beautify and improve our community. The generosity shown as residents share of their resources is astounding in Bedford. What a blessing this gift is.

One true gift are the volunteers working on various committees for Bedford Township. When a need or gap is noticed, committees are formed and volunteers are rallied to fulfill that need. Volunteers give of their time to make Bedford a better place to live and ask nothing in return. They work on issues like economic development, history, preservation of plants and animal species, and even creating fun, family activities to bring our community closer together. Bedford would not have progressed like we have if we didn't have the volunteers and various non-profit charities helping over the years. There have been so many people who have helped Bedford it would take a book to mention each one by name. What a gift

these individuals are to our community.

The gift of talent has been bestowed on Bedford. Our Fire Chief and Firefighters have shaped our Fire Department to become one of the best in the area. The officers in our Sheriff's Department work diligently to protect our community day-in and day-out and do it fearlessly. Municipal workers tirelessly serve Bedford Township to do the best job they can.

Teachers, clergy, artists...I could go on and on. What a gift these talents are to Bedford.

On a personal note, every Christmas and New Year I am in awe of the gifts I have been given. First and foremost, for the gift of my Savior. I have been blessed with a beautiful, supportive family that I adore. I have been entrusted with the gift of serving in a position that I love as the Supervisor of this great Township. I recognize that with these gifts come responsibility to be a good steward of them. As you reflect on what you have been blessed with this holiday season, remember to give from that abundance. Serve with your time, give of your resources, share kind words, or any of the countless other ways you can bless others. ■



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to You and Yours!

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. ■

News From The Assessing Department

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

PROPERTY OWNERS: The Bedford Township Assessing Department continues to conduct fieldwork in different areas of the township during business hours and will do so through the end of the year. Letters are mailed to property owners for reappraisal fieldwork only (a reappraisal is visiting every parcel in a given area or subdivision). We will also be verifying all property sales, construction permits, and any fire or storm damaged properties. All Assessing staff carry ID and drive in marked township vehicles.

ATTENTION BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BUSINESS OWNERS

NEW BUSINESS OWNERS: We will be out this fall doing our annual canvass for new Business Personal Property. If you have a new business in Bedford Township, expect to receive **Personal Property Statement (Form 632)** and **Small Business Exemption forms (Form 5076)** mailed no later than January 10, 2020. Please fill out these forms and mail/return to our office postmarked no later than February 20, 2020.

EXISTING BUSINESS OWNERS: Reminder that Business Personal Property less than \$80,000 true cash value is eligible for a small business exemption. Those businesses who timely filed Department of Treasury form 5076 last year do not have to file again as long as they remain under the \$80,000 true cash value and there are no other changes. Going forward, questionnaire's will be mailed out periodically for auditing purposes. Businesses with over \$80,000 true cash value should continue to file their personal property statement annually as required.

Further information regarding these forms can be found on the State's website: www.michigan.gov/taxes, click on **Property Taxes Tab, then New! Personal Property Tax Information**.

Please contact the **Bedford Township Assessing Department** at 734.224.7353 if you have any questions. Our office hours are **Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.** ■

Year	Bedford Township	Monroe County	Michigan
1810	?*	1,340	4,762
1820	?*	1,831	8,896
1830	?*	3,187	31,639
1840	500	9,922	212,267
1850	887	14,698	397,659
1860	1,239	21,593	749,113
1870	1,459	27,483	1,184,059
1880	1,835	33,624	1,636,937
1890	1,837	32,337	2,093,889
1900	2,192	32,754	2,420,982
1910	2,213	32,917	2,810,172
1920	2,689	37,115	3,668,412
1930	4,578	52,485	4,842,325
1940	5,487	58,620	5,256,106
1950	7,918	75,666	6,372,009
1960	14,353	101,120	7,824,018
1970	20,875	118,479	8,875,083
1980	22,902	134,659	9,262,078
1990	23,748	133,600	9,295,297
2000	28,606	145,945	9,938,444
2010	31,085	152,021	9,883,640
2020	?	?	?

*Township Not Organized

Interesting Bedford Facts Answer

(From Page 3)

The 1840 Census

On May 4, 1818, a Proclamation by Lewis Cass, Governor of the Territory of Michigan, formed the Township of Erie. At that time Erie Township included all of the present township of Bedford, Erie, LaSalle, and Whiteford. What is now Bedford Township was identified as West Erie. Bedford Township was split off from Erie Township and was organized on March 23, 1836. The 1840 Federal Census for Bedford Township listed 79 people as head of household with a population of 500. The 2010 Census recorded a population of 31,085. The complete article regarding the History of Bedford Township can be found on the Township website: www.bedfordmi.org. ■

NOTE: From 1840 until 2010, Bedford Township has had approximately a 2.43% growth rate per Census.

Christmas Tree Recycling

**From December 26 through January 12
all Christmas Trees can be recycled at
Carr Park. Please remove all decorations
(Lights, Ornaments, Tinsel).**



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 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 Advisory 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 2 nd Wednesday of every other 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.