



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The Township Update

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In This Issue

From the Supervisor's Desk	1
Bedford Ordinance Department	1
Treasurer's Department News	2
Bedford Branch Library News	2
Spring Brings New Life	2
The Clerk's Corner	3
Flood's in Bedford Township	3
Downtown Development Authority ..	4
Park Board News	4
Bedford Community Fireworks	4
History of Bedford Township	4
Website/YouTube Information	4
Fire Department Update	4
2020 Schedule of Meetings	4

We're on the Web
www.bedfordmi.org

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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.

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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

From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor

Senior Citizens and Hunger!

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our Senior Center and discuss Senior Citizen Hunger. Our senior center has been such a wonderful asset to Bedford Township and its residents for so many years, I would now like to take the opportunity to thank them for all they do. In addition, I am pleased to announce the **Bedford Senior Community Center** is going to be staying in their current location. The good news is that, through a generous donation, they were able to purchase the building and start planning for much needed improvements. The center is looking to add an activity room to the existing building, incorporate an accessible bathroom and fixing the parking lot to start. This building hosts many activities for the seniors however the most important one is feeding hungry seniors. The **Meals on Wheels** program continues to be a very important part of the Senior Center program.

Nearly one in every six seniors in America faces the threat of hunger and the consequences of not being properly nourished. This applies to those who aren't sure where their next meal is coming from and those who do not have access to the healthiest possible food options. The issue is severe enough that the AARP reports that seniors face a healthcare bill of more than \$130 billion every year due to medical issues stemming from senior citizen hunger.



To understand the concept of seniors citizens being hungry, you must understand what it means to be "food insecure." When you are food insecure, it means that there is "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways," as defined by a study published in The Journal of Nutrition. Essentially, it means that you aren't receiving and/or don't have access to the necessary foods and nutrients to help sustain your life. For many of our seniors Meals on Wheels or going to the Senior Center is the only meal a senior may have for the day. This is not just a Bedford Township problem. It's occurring nationwide as well.

Dianne Carroll, Director of the Bedford Senior Center and her volunteers have done an amazing job of feeding our elderly population in Bedford Township but it can be trying. She is stretching budgets in order to feed the additional seniors that call for food help. "Dianne states that meals cost \$3.00 however over the last two years the center had to provide \$46,000 in funding to feed seniors who could not afford to pay". Dianne keeps seeing more and more seniors needing food and she is concerned this problem is going to keep escalating for our senior population for years to come. As seniors see a rising cost in their living expenses one of the things that gets cut first is buying nutritious foods and instead, they will buy cheaper high quantities of not so healthy foods. Seniors at times have to make a hard decision to buy food or prescription drugs that are needed thus leading to jeopardizing their health either way.

At the recent Bedford Business Summit, Randy Oostra, CEO ProMedica spoke on hunger being a health care issue and what has to be done to eradicate it. He explained how its ProMedica's responsibility to battle hunger for all populations including the elderly. For example, ProMedica screens all patients to make sure there is food in the household and that you have a wellness plan before you are discharged from the hospital. This helps from having a patient return to the hospital because they are not healing properly for lack of nutrition. Many hospitals and doctors now have adopted screening senior patients for food insecurity to make sure they are receiving proper nutrients and if not, they are reporting it to various

agencies to get them help with food. This is a battle that we all can help in some small way.

What You Can Do to Help Seniors Citizens Facing Hunger

If you suspect someone you know may be suffering from food insecurity, there are a few things you can do to help.

- **Offer transportation to and from a grocery store or farmer's market.** By shopping with a senior who is facing food insecurity, you can help them find the foods with the best nutritional and financial value.
- **Provide recipe ideas and cooking tips.** Many seniors suffer from malnutrition simply because they don't know what healthy dishes to cook or how to cook them. This is especially true for the widow or widower of a spouse who did all the household cooking for many years.
- **Offer help with reading or translating nutrition labels.** Reading small labels can be troublesome for seniors who suffer from diminished eyesight.
- **Provide assistance with enrollment in programs.** Applying for government assistance or reaching out to a nonprofit for help can be confusing or intimidating. You can help someone facing food insecurity get the help they need by helping them through the application process for services such as food relief programs, Medicaid or Medicaid Advantage plans or call the Bedford Senior Center.
- **Invite them over for a holiday meal.** By inviting a senior into your home for a holiday meal, you can help them avoid going hungry while also giving them an important opportunity for social interaction.
- **Volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program.** There is such shortage of drivers to deliver meals. For many seniors this is the only interaction with others and they look forward to the deliveries.
- **Check Seniors in your family.** They may have food insecurity and are not telling you.

If you have never had lunch at the **Bedford Senior Center**, I would encourage you to make the effort to visit. If you love history, lunch with the seniors is a great time to learn about Bedford and life in general. So many of our Citizens have been in Bedford for years and have many stories to tell and pass on to others. **Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Center.** These meals are provided on a suggested donation basis of **\$3.00. Reservations must be called in every day between 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.** by calling **734.856.3330.**

Many ask how the center is maintained financially? The **Monroe County Senior Citizens Millage** provides the largest percentage of the total operating budget for the Bedford Senior programs. The Bedford Senior Center also receives funding through Bedford Township, and United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties. Other sources include: USDA-Federal Food Reimbursement, Private donations from local citizens, clubs and organizations and



Bedford Senior Center
1653 Samaria Road
Temperance, MI

Membership fund- raising. If you are looking to leave a money to charity or donate today the Senior Citizens could be the place.

If you would like to donate call **Dianne Carroll** at **734.856.3330.** The center is located at **1653 Samaria Road, Temperance.** If you have questions please call **734.856.3330** and if you need a ride to the Senior Center call **Bedford Dial-A-Ride** at **888.664.5984.** I hope to see you someday at the **Bedford Senior Center** for lunch. ■

A Note From Your Ordinance Department

While the weather may still be a bit frigid, the calendar says **Spring IS approaching.** Our department would just like to remind, you, the resident, of some common ordinance issues that arise in the warmer months.

Burning Season takes place in the months of **April** and **May.** Residents are permitted to burn on **Fridays 2PM - 6PM** and **Saturdays and Sundays from 8AM - 6PM.** All fires must be attended at **ALL TIMES** and burning in ditches is not allowed. Recreational campfires, no larger than 3x3 ft, are allowed daily from 3PM to midnight. Bonfires, as always, require a permit.

The **Noxious Weeds Ordinance** is in effect from **May 1 - October 1.** Please keep the height of your grass under 6 inches. Residents who have a complaint filed against them will receive a letter by mail and will have 10 days to comply. If you fail to comply within the allotted time-frame we will send our contracted lawn company out to cut your lawn and the cost will be assessed onto your property taxes.

The **Save Our Seniors Program** is available to seniors with disabilities who are unable to cut their grass. If you have questions or may be in need of this service, please call the **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** at **734.224.7350** to see if you qualify.

Finally, the **Bedford Spring Clean-up** is happening again this year on **Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** ■



Property Tax Info and More....

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

If you itemize deductions when preparing your 2019 income tax returns, you will need the amount you paid for property taxes during calendar year 2019. Remember: **SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS** for various improvements such as sewer or water lines, drains, roads, street lights, etc. are generally **NOT DEDUCTIBLE** for income tax purposes. If you file for a 2019 Michigan income tax credit on Form MI 1040-CR or MI 1040-CR2, the tax amount required for credit calculation is the total 2019 Summer and Winter taxes billed, regardless of when those amounts were actually paid. You can obtain that information in several ways: from your mortgage escrow statement (*if you have a mortgage escrow account*); from the actual paid tax bills, or by accessing the Township website at www.bedfordmi.org.

If you use the township website, click on the Property/Tax Information tab on the right side, then click Tax Information Search under the Current Tax on the left side of the page. The Tax Information Search screen will allow you to search by owner name, address or parcel number. You only need to fill in one of the fields. Then click Search, and the next screen may list several parcels. Click on the parcel you wish and the detailed tax information page will come up. Scroll down for the year and season (*winter and summer*) you need, then click on the plus sign (+) in front of the year. You will see the amount due, the amount paid, date it was paid, a breakdown of what was paid, assessed and taxable values, etc. This information can be printed for your records. If you have any questions or need help with the web page, please call the **Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342**.

2020 SANITARY SEWER RATE INFORMATION

Your quarterly sanitary sewer usage bill is comprised of three components: operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and debt service. The operations and maintenance component is calculated per thousand gallons of metered or estimated water consumption. The depreciation and debt service components are calculated on the single-family residential equivalents basis.

2020 Current monthly sewer disposal rates are as follows (billed quarterly):

Operations and Maintenance (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 5.29
Depreciation (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.])	\$ 1.74
Debt Service (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.])	\$10.16

Average 2020 quarterly residential bill, based on a household of three is:

Operations and Maintenance (20,000 gallons)	\$106.80
Depreciation (3 months)	\$ 5.22
Debt Service (3 months)	\$ 30.48
Total Average Quarterly Residential Bill	\$141.50

SECONDARY WATER METERS

Please be aware that your sewer usage bill is based on your water usage as recorded by your water meter. If you are connected to the South County Water System and you are planning to water your lawn or fill your swimming pool, you should consider having a secondary water meter installed to monitor and record the water consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes (*i.e. lawn sprinklers, swimming pool, etc.*). Installing a secondary water meter will prevent your sewer usage bill from reflecting water gallons consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes.

There is a cost for the secondary water meter and installation, but the potential savings in your quarterly sewer usage bill may help offset this cost. Contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579** for further information and specific details.

SWIMMING POOL INFORMATION

The **South County Water System** will fill swimming pools located in subdivisions within 300 feet of fire hydrants, or located on section roads within 300 feet of fire hydrants on the same side of the road as the pool. For more information please contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579**.

PLEASE NOTE: DELINQUENT TAXES

If you are unable to pay your property taxes by **March 2, 2020**, the Township Treasurer is required by law to transfer them to the Monroe County Treasurer's office for collection proceedings. In order to protect yourself from the foreclosure process, you need to call the **Monroe County Treasurer's** office at **734.240.7365** as soon as possible to discuss your specific situation. The **Monroe County Treasurer** can offer suggestions for emergency loans and grants, sources for legal assistance, partial payment arrangements, special resources for veterans and senior citizens, hardship extensions, etc. **PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE DELINQUENT TAXES** and run the risk of losing your home. Help is available for you, but **YOU** must take the initiative and call the **Monroe County Treasurer's** office. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian



DID YOU KNOW that the Bedford Branch of the Monroe County Library System is the busiest branch in Monroe County? In 2019 we circulated 155,920 items from the Bedford Branch Library and had almost 29,000 people attend events at the library. We offer one-on-one tech help, small business resources, print, copy and fax services, an exceptional local history collection, storytime/literacy programs for toddlers through school age, yoga, tai chi, classic movies, family movie nights, genealogy club, multiple book clubs, DIY craft program, garden beds to borrow, and so much more. We are truly a unique and vibrant component of your community.

In addition to all of the wonderful events we host, we are also specially educated to help you find what you're looking for. Four of us have Master's degrees and are continuously training on specialized topics. Other staff have both college degrees and experience that will help you get the best library experience possible. We are dedicated to our community and are receptive to providing you with the library that you need and want.

Curious about what is happening at the library building with tax dollars from the building millage passed in November, 2018? So far we have:

- Removed the trees that were impacting the roof, sidewalk, and HVAC equipment.
- Repaired broken floor tiles.
- Repaired worn and frayed carpeting.
- Completed our conversion to LED lighting.
- Removed overgrown and dying landscaping.
- Purchased additional furniture needed for specific areas of the library.

Currently we are:

- Painting the entire inside of the building (*nearly finished!*).
- Awaiting the installation of the HVAC controls system approved by the Township Board.

In the near future:

- Parking areas will be sealed and restriped.
- New trees that will fit the space better will be purchased and planted.
- Landscaping will be improved with natives to reduce or eliminate the need for watering.
- Worn furnishings will be recovered.

Our hours are:

Monday Thursday 9 am - 9 pm
 Friday Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
 Sunday 12 pm - 5 pm until May 17
 (Closed Easter Sunday, April 12) Sunday hours will resume September 13, 2020.

Check out our website at monroe.lib.mi.us/Bedford-branch-library for more information about your local library and be sure to stop by our booth at the **BBA Trade Fair**. We love to talk with everyone about your wonderful library! ■

Spring Brings New Life and New Opportunities...

By TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

What a crazy winter we have had this year! So unique that in many ways it is reflective of each of us and our community. Unpredictable, unique, and ever changing.

Speaking of change I wanted to use this article to talk to you about change on our township board. Incredibly, my four years as **YOUR** Trustee are winding down. In these almost four years we have accomplished several great things that I think have laid the foundation for a thriving Bedford in the future. We have maintained spending, increased services, and largely brought our roads back to the condition they should remain. I have enjoyed being **YOUR** Trustee and look forward to the next chapter in serving my neighbors.



As **YOUR** current Trustee, I communicate with many of you via email, around town in restaurants, the grocery store, etc. During these conversations I hear a common theme. That theme is people being interested in their community. Wanting great things for it and people being willing to help. Well, do I have a chance for you to help

This is the time of year when people begin to decide if they want to run for public office. Running for office is not technically difficult to do but it does require work. Ideally, you want to help your neighbors. You should be willing to take time to campaign, knock doors, put up signs, etc. But, it is an amazing opportunity that every resident has if they want to be involved in our community. In my lifetime I have had no greater honor than to provide service to my neighbors in law enforcement, through community service, through church, and now as **YOUR** public servant/Trustee.

Service is a way we give back to our community. It is a conscious effort to focus on others instead of self. In my experience I think it provides a balance to my life because it allows for me to constantly engage with others and learn from them and about them. These collective experiences allow me to have an understanding of our community and county. That understanding and experience helps me to be better effective for **YOU!**

So this spring there will be a ton of new life and new opportunities for those that want to be involved. And, if running for public office is not for you, there are many places where you can plug in and make a difference. PTO's in our schools, our Veteran's center, township committees, service clubs, and charities are all looking for those willing to take time out of their schedules to help.

As we enter this time of the year where new life is most notable, join me in being excited about the opportunities to make our hometown continue to be great. ■

2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

On **March 10, 2020** the State of Michigan will hold its Presidential Primary. Due to the nature of this election, and the fact that they are only held every four years, many questions are fielded by our office regarding this primary. Below are some of these questions:

- **Do I have to register as a Republican or Democrat to participate?** No, any Michigan registered voter can participate in the primary. Also, Michigan Election law does not require voters to register with a party.
- **Why do I have to select a party ballot?** The Michigan Primary is designated as a closed primary. Voters in a closed primary must indicate in writing which political party ballot he or she wishes to vote. The ballot that is given to the voter then will only list candidates that correspond with the party selected.
- **Will how I vote in March affect the ways I will be able to vote in future elections?** No, voters may vote for whomever and whichever parties they wish in the August primary and the November general elections. The August primary is an open primary which simply means that only one type of ballot will be issued. This ballot will contain all political parties and their candidates, voters will then select one of the parties from the privacy of their voting booth.
- **Will there be other items on the Presidential Primary ballot?** Not in Bedford Township. While some jurisdictions have chosen to hold special elections in conjunction with the March Presidential Primary, Bedford Township **DOES NOT** have any proposals or local races for the ballot. Voters will only see candidates running for President within their selected party.
- **Why does my primary ballot include candidates no longer running for president?** Candidates had until December 13, 2019 to formally withdraw their names from Michigan's ballot. Any candidates that have suspended their campaigns after this date will still appear on the ballot.
- **I see a selection option of "uncommitted" on my ballot, what does this mean?** A voter selecting "uncommitted" is telling their party they cannot commit to any of the candidates listed on their ballot. If enough voters cast an

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



'uncommitted' vote, the party may send delegates to the national nominating convention who are not committed to a specific candidate.

- **Some states hold a primary while other states hold a caucus. What is the difference?** A primary election is conducted similar to a general election, with public polling places set up to receive eligible voters. Voters are given ballots listing the candidates of the political party they have requested and make their selection within a closed voting booth. A primary election is not a general election, but rather a means of determining the popularity of partisan candidates. A caucus, on the other hand, is typically set up similar to a town hall meeting where registered members of a political party gather at party-specific designated caucus sites. Certain party members are then allowed to speak in favor of their preferred candidates and then a vote is conducted and tallied. The results of this vote, reported precinct by precinct, show which candidate received the largest percentage of the vote, and therefore the greater number of committed delegates.
- **If I am out of town, or unable to make it to a polling location on March 10, can I still vote?** Certainly, any registered Michigan voter has the option to vote absentee. Contact the **Clerk's Office** at **734.224.7320** and request an absentee ballot. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is **Friday, March 6, 2020 by 5PM**. Please keep in mind that ballots sent and received by mail will need to make it through the postal service and **ALL** ballots must be received by March 10. ■

Primary Election
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

General Election
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Bedford Township Planning Department Update Floods in Bedford Township?

For most Bedford Township residents, thoughts of flood disasters are probably the last thing on most minds. Yet floods can and do happen in our relatively flat community. Bedford Township is crisscrossed by many public and private drains and creeks. Most of this drainage system is natural and some of it is manmade. During periods of heavy rain, this drainage system can become overloaded, and floodwaters often spill over the banks. The most severe flooding in Monroe County occurs near areas around several rivers that traverse the county, and along the Lake Erie Shoreline. The rivers are the **River Raisin** and its tributaries, the **Huron River** and **Plum Creek**. Communities that are most affected by flooding of these rivers include **Dundee Township**, the **Village of Dundee**, **Raisinville Township**, **Monroe Charter Township**, **Frenchtown Charter Township** and the **City of Monroe**. **Bedford Township** is generally more affected by urban flooding from runoff during heavy downpours. During heavy rain events, the Monroe County Emergency Management Division will issue flood warnings by notifying the local broadcast media.



Flooding in Bedford Township is generally not a problem unless your home is located in or near a 100-year flood plain. What many homeowners don't know is that standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flooding.

Since 1981, Bedford Township has participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP. By participating in this program, many homeowners in Bedford Township are eligible for flood insurance coverage through their insurance agents. In addition, because Bedford Township participates in FEMA's Community Rating System and adheres to stringent flood plain management practices, homeowners receive an automatic percentage discount on flood insurance premiums.

Through an initial study completed in 1981, FEMA identified many areas in the community that were susceptible to flooding. The flood boundaries are defined as 100-year and 500-year flood zones. The 100-year flood zone, or Zone A is an area along either side of a stream that will likely flood during a heavy storm. The 500-year flood zone is a much wider area that extends beyond the 100-year flood zone and would flood during a very heavy storm that happens less frequently.

On October 2, 2014, FEMA adopted revised flood maps that may affect properties that were not in a flood zone but now may be under the revised maps. Some properties that were once in a flood zone may have been removed. It is advisable that property owners review the new maps to determine the current status.

There may be existing homes in Bedford Township that are in a 100-year flood zone that do not have flood insurance. This could be because the home existed prior to Bedford Township's involvement with the NFIP. When these homes are sold or refinanced, the lending institutions are required to determine if the home is in a 100-year flood plain. If it is, they must inform the homeowner or buyer that flood insurance is mandatory.

If a home is located in a 100-year flood zone, there are protective measures than can be taken to flood proof the structure and reduce the risk of damage. Furnaces, water heaters, laundry appliance and electrical panel boxes should be relocated to an area that is not prone to flooding. In the basement, floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed. It is also a good idea to keep valuable items out of flood prone areas or at least make them easily accessible if flooding is expected. In many cases, there will not be ample warning time to move essential items from the flood prone area, so you may want to permanently

store them in another area.

When there is extensive urban runoff and small stream flooding, there are several safety factors to keep in mind.

1. **Pay close attention to special storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service.**
2. **Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream by foot or by car since undercurrents from fast moving water can knock you down or even move a large vehicle.**
3. **Do not allow children to go near flooded areas, ditches, culverts and storm drains.**
4. **If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and move to higher ground.**
5. **Evacuate flood hazard areas in time of impending flood or when instructed to do so by emergency personnel.**
6. **Shut off electric circuits at the electrical panel. If this is not possible, disconnect all electrical appliances. Also, shut off all gas valves and water services in the home.**

If you suspect that your home may be in a flood hazard area, Bedford Township maintains copies of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the Township. Township personnel can assist you in reading the maps, provide you with basic information found on the map panel, assist in locating your subject property on the map and, if needed, provide flood insurance information as well.

Staff can:

- 1) **Provide basic information found on a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that is needed to write a flood insurance policy,**
- 2) **Provide non-insurance rating information that appears on the community's FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM),**
- 3) **Provide information about flood problems other than those shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM),**
- 4) **Provide information about flood depths,**
- 5) **Provide information about a special flood related hazard that does not appear on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and**
- 6) **Provide information about past flooding at or near the site in question. Bedford Township can provide you with instructions on what steps can be taken to reduce the potential for flood damage. We also maintain a supply of informational pamphlets on flooding in the Bedford Township Zoning/ Building Department. ■**

Notice to all Lenders, Realtors, Builders, and Property Owners

In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, Bedford Township provides assistance in helping you determine whether parcels located in the Township are affected by flood plains. It is important that you take advantage of this service prior to offering any property for sale or for construction. If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the Bedford Township Planning/ Zoning Department at **734.224-7331**. ■

Happenings with the Downtown Development Authority!

The **Downtown Development Authority in Lambertville** is bringing back the Summerfest Parade that has been absent for 12 years. The parade will take place the morning of June 13. The parade will start by **Kroger**, go north on **Secor Road** then turn left on **Summerfield Road** to **Parmelee Park**. If you would like to participate in the parade or need information call **Jeanne Bragg** at 419.340.7186 or **Maria Esposito** with the **Bedford Business Association** at 734.850.2200. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Happy Spring Everyone!

The **Bedford Township Fire Department** recently submitted the Annual Report for 2019. A copy of the report is available on the township website for residents to review. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our forty-five paid-on-call firefighters and our four full-time firefighters. We are honored for the privilege to serve our residents each and every day.



The department responded to 2,842 calls for service in 2019 making us the third busiest department in Monroe County behind Frenchtown (2,917) and The City of Monroe (3,986). This represents an increase of 126 calls for service over 2018 as we approach an average of eight calls per day.

Response times continue to be a source of pride for the department. From the time dispatch notifies the department of a structure fire, we arrive on scene within eight minutes 93% of the time, far exceeding the national standard of 80% for suburban fire departments.

The department transported 159 patients from emergency scene's to local hospitals in 2019 significantly surpassing the 2018 total of 20 transports. It is important to remember that we provide backup ambulance service to the locally contracted ambulance service. The 159 transports represent times when the private EMS company had delayed response times and the fire department stepped in to provide care and timely transport to the hospital.

As we move into 2020, we are working hard to make sure we continue delivering the excellent service you deserve. The biggest challenge we will face in 2020 is finding a path to keep the four full-time firefighters after the federal grant expires so that we can continue with the level of service our residents deserve, and forging a path forward by focusing on improving the existing service. ■

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. ■

Bedford Park Board News

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

Spring Is Just Around The Corner!

Take in a 3B ball game at White Park. Watch the youngsters learn to play T-Ball at Indian Creek Park. Checkout spring wildflowers and native grasses at Ansted Park and Wheeler Preserve. Enjoy the playscapes at Samaria Park and Carr's Grove. Pickleball players are going outside to the White Park courts in mid April. New players are always welcome. Don't forget our disc golf course at Parmelee Park.

Biggest week in birding is May 6-17; Spring Warbler migration as well as returning nesters will be in our area. Be on the watch!

There is something for all Bedford residents at the parks. Consider taking the family for a walk and/or a picnic.

2020 Bedford Township Community Fireworks

Due to the proposed improvements scheduled for the Bedford High School and Junior High School parking lots this summer, the Community Stadium is not available for the traditional Bedford Community Fireworks Event this year. The Bedford Township Park Commission reviewed several alternative options and is excited to sponsor the fireworks show for the upcoming Bedford Summerfest which will be held at the Lambertville Civic Club, located next door to Parmelee Park from June 11-14. The fireworks show will take place on Friday, June 12, at dusk (rain date to be Saturday, June 13, at dusk). The festival already has transportation plans in place for the event, which includes satellite parking with shuttles to and from the festival. On behalf of the Bedford Township Park Commission, we hope you come out and enjoy an exciting firework show. We look forward to returning to the Community Stadium in June of 2021. ■



Historic Bedford Township

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 first election was held on May 2, 1836, at the home of Levi Lewis, 166 Samaria Road. William Dunbar was elected Supervisor and Theophilus Osgood, Clerk.



The first post office in Bedford Township was established on June 13, 1834, and was named West Erie Post Office. William Dunbar was Postmaster from 1834 to 1855. On January 15, 1836, West Erie Post Office was renamed Lambertville Post Office. Lambertville was named for John Lambert.

Samaria village was formerly known as Weeksville. In May, 1878, a rail line was completed through this village and on January 17, 1879 the Samaria Post Office was established with Samuel Weeks as the first Postmaster. Samaria was named for Samuel and Mary (Mason) Weeks.

Bedford Center was established in 1859. On December 8, 1884 a post office was established at Bedford Center and was named Temperance with Lewis Ansted as the first Postmaster. A petition was circulated and the name Bedford Center was changed to Temperance.

The 1840 Federal Census for Bedford Township listed 79 people as head of household with a population of 500 and the 2000 Census with 10,659 dwellings and a population of 28,606.

In the early years there were ten separate school districts in Bedford Township with each having their own school directors. In the early 1940's there was an effort to reorganize the schools to utilize more fully already available facilities and to provide a higher educational standard for school children. On February 4, 1946, the Temperance School District Number 2 was destroyed by fire and this prompted immediate action to reorganize. On June 1, 1946 the Bedford Township voters approved the consolidation and on June 15, 1946 the School Board organized the new consolidated school system to be named Bedford Rural Agricultural Schools. On December 1, 1955 the name was changed to Bedford Public Schools.

From Bedford Township Website | Information Courtesy of Don Adams ■

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 every 3 rd month
Bedford Library Advisory Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM (New Time) · 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

- 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 **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.