

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The Township Update

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XXII • ISSUE I • SPRING 2021



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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
Krista Jandasek	Treasurer
Todd Bruning	Trustee
Joe Gore	Trustee
Craig Montri	Trustee
Rick Steiner	Trustee
Dennis Kolar	Building Inspector



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
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer	
kjandasek@bedfordmi.org	
Planning Department.....	7331
Karen Kincaid, Administrator	
kkincaid@bedfordmi.org	
Building Department.....	7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official	
dkolar@bedfordmi.org	
Assessing Department.....	7353
Ordinance Department.....	7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor	
dcecil@bedfordmi.org	
Trustee's Office.....	
Todd Bruning	
tbruning@bedfordmi.org	
Joe Gore	
kgore@bedfordmi.org	
Craig Montri	
cmontri@bedfordmi.org	
Rick Steiner	
rsteiner@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

"Thank You For Your Trust"

The start of the year has been very interesting with a change in the board, COVID-19 still lingering, new President, and we finally had snow. As with every year the Township will face challenges like road repairs, budgets, and funding, just to name a few. However, I am always humbled by your confidence in me by choosing me and this board to continue to work on your behalf. I am committed to working to bring prosperity, a family-oriented community, and the best public service that a township government can provide. Township government is the most basic form of government since the elected Board cannot impose additional taxes on the property owners without your approval by way of additional voted millages. I will do my best to respect and protect the millages you have approved, and the state shared revenues that Bedford Township receives on your behalf.

You have re-elected me to serve you on a seven member Board. As you may or may not know, I have certain state mandated duties and other leadership duties and opportunities that I will always use to support, promote, and defend on your behalf. However, I only have one vote. The other six Board members each have one vote. So, it is advantageous for you, the Bedford citizens to continue to be aware of what is on the agenda of the Bedford Township Board meetings. The Board meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Those meetings and agendas are posted on the Bedford Township website. The minutes of every meeting are published in the Bedford Press. Every meeting is also streamed live on YouTube at the time of the meeting, or can be viewed at a later time on YouTube.

As of the November 2020 election we have two new members, and five returning members. At the Board meetings we make decisions on how to spend your tax dollars, Ordinances that may affect you, zoning that affects what kind of township we want to live in, and many more important factors that always have an impact on our residents and way of life. If you are not aware of the decisions your government officials are making please get involved and that can be as simple as a phone call to learn about the issues.

When I ran for this office in 2016, and again in 2020, I made a promise to myself and this community that I would stay closely involved in its development, progress, property owners, and with our businesses. My wife and I are raising our five children here and being a part of protecting their future is extremely important to me. I stay in close touch with Bedford schools and its leadership, with developers and their ideas, with community planning, and encouraging social activities in order to bring people together. Working together with other

leaders makes for better decisions for all. When we get to know one another on a friendly basis it helps everyone to be understanding of the needs of our neighbors. I have made it my mission to stay connected, stay involved, to stay visible, and stay on top of issues so

From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone, Supervisor



that when calls come to my office, my Deputy, Al Prieur, and I can answer questions and/or look into whatever matter maybe presented to us.

As I mentioned earlier, the decision-making body of your Township has seven members. My ideas are not always their ideas. We can discuss options, we can debate the need for certain ideas, and we can disagree. However, a public decision should **ALWAYS** be in the best interest for you, the public. I don't believe Board Members who are elected by the people, and are voted in to do the public's business should ever make decisions based on anything other than what is in the best for Bedford Township. After all, it is the voters who put each Board Member on the Board, and it's imperative we do the right thing. I commit to the public, that I will always vote in the best interest of the public – including business, safety, development, future zoning, community, and all other decision I must make in my capacity as your Supervisor.

I encourage each of you to stay in touch with me and all of your elected officials. Their contact information is on the Bedford Township website. I commit to working on your behalf. I will listen and think through your concerns and input.

In addition, I am proud to report that we assisted the Monroe County Road Commission with snow plowing again this year. As a reminder when snow reaches five inches Bedford Township will be called out to help clear out sub-divisions. It always helps the snowplows if cars are not parked on the streets. Also, during these big snow storms check on your neighbors to make sure they don't need help with snow removal.

Again, thank you for your trust and re-electing me to four more years of service to you. ■

A Message From The Bedford Township Clerk's Office

COVID-19 SCAM WARNING!

On printing this newsletter, the COVID-19 pandemic will have been at the forefront of televisions, conversations and other media outlets for over a year now. Unfortunately, there are some out there that look at the problems and chaos and seize it as an opportunity for nefarious activity. The Center for Internet Security published an article recently that laid out the TOP 4 COVID-19 Scams that we should all be aware of:

1) Malicious Websites: Fake websites claiming to share news, testing results, or other resources while asking for your credentials and bank account information. Never share personally identifiable information with someone you don't know.

2) Phishing Emails: These are emails sent out to recipients where the sender is pretending to be a legitimate organization (*government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and healthcare agencies*). They may lure you with COVID-19 related subject lines (*vaccine registration, information about your vaccine coverage, locations to receive the vaccine, vaccine requirements and or ways to reserve a vaccine*). These emails will sometimes try to get you to follow a malicious link or attachment that allows them to access your computer or device. Be aware if the email tries to get you to act urgently, follow a non-standard process you might find odd, or requests personally identifiable information.

3) Fraudulent Charities: Do your homework before donating to a charity. While a pandemic still exists, there will be fake charities, preying upon one's goodwill nature to seek donations for illegitimate causes. If you would like to investigate, please visit the Federal Trade Commission's page on charity scams at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0074-giving-charity> ;

4) Unemployment Scams: Be aware of identity theft scams involving fake unemployment claims made in your name.

Below are some additional websites to assist you:

- CDC | COVID-19-Related Phone Scams and Phishing Attacks <https://www.cdc.gov/media/phishing.html> ;
- DHS | Operation Stolen Promise <https://www.ice.gov/topics/operation-stolen-promise>
- FDA | Beware of Fraudulent Coronavirus Tests, Vaccines and Treatments <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/beware-fraudulent-coronavirus-tests-vaccines-and-treatments>
- U.S. DOJ | Coronavirus <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>

In addition to the internet scams there are also phone scams that one should be aware of. Scammers are preying on fears over the COVID-19 pandemic and are calling with offers for free home



testing kits, bogus cures, fake health insurance and more. The Federal Communications Commission on their website have laid out tips for avoiding these scam artists:

- Do not respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers, or any others that appear suspicious.
- Never share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.
- Be cautious if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately.
- Scammers often "spoof" phone numbers (*Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity*) to trick you into answering or responding. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number, or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust. If you answer, they use scam scripts to try to steal your money or valuable personal information, which can be used in fraudulent activity.
- Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.

In short, if it sounds suspect, it may very well be. Stay vigilant. Predators are relying on catching you off guard or scaring you into getting what they want. Never be afraid to ask a family member, someone you trust, or even law enforcement, if a call or a website sounds too good to be true or not quite right. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

Spring Is In The Air!

Even though it's not quite business as usual, your Bedford Branch of the Monroe County Library System is pleased to be open to the public for one hour appointments for both computer use and browsing our collection of library materials. We accept walk-ins, also limited to one hour visits, as long as we haven't reached our limited capacity. We recommend those needing a computer call 734-847-6747 to make an appointment as space is limited. Our hours are Monday – Thursday 10 am – 7 pm and Friday and Saturday 10 am – 4 pm. We are pleased to continue to provide curbside service. We provide copy and fax services, and offer wi-fi printing either in-person or via curbside. We do ask that you help us in providing a safe library for the community by wearing proper face coverings, keeping your distance from others, and washing your hands frequently.

The Seed Library is back and Garden Beds for Loan will be available soon! If you're new to gardening, have limited space, or want to try something different, our Seed Library is for you. We have a large variety of heirloom, organic, and hybrid seeds for vegetables, herbs, and flowers. You may take up to 3 packets of seeds when you visit the library as part of this free and public program. We would love for everyone to learn about and enjoy the benefit of growing your own food and flowers. Don't have your own space? Garden beds will be available in mid-March with a library card in good standing. Call the branch for more information and to obtain an agreement form for a garden bed. If you're a seed saver and want to share organic or heirloom seeds with others, please consider donating clearly labeled seeds.

One Book One Community, sponsored in part by your library, encourages the community to read and discuss a single title. This year's pick is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, a story of identity, race, gender, family, and much more. We're excited to announce that the author will be discussing her book with us live on March 25 via Zoom! For younger readers we recommend *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson and *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. For more information on One Book One Community visit <https://www.monroeccc.edu/one-book-one-community/2021>

The Bedford Township Library Advisory Board continues to work diligently to ensure that all of the projects promised during the 2018 millage campaign are completed in a timely manner with the tax dollars Bedford residents were gracious enough to approve for your library. So far we have completed

- LED conversion
- Installing controls for lighting and HVAC systems
- Repairing the broken sidewalk and floor tiles
- Removing trees impacting the building, sidewalk, and HVAC
- Painting the interior of the building
- Purchasing and refurbishing furnishings
- Sealing and restriping the parking lot

The Library Advisory Board is currently accepting quotes for landscaping and is working on bid documents for restructuring the service desks and public computer area, adding more quiet study spaces, and replacing the worn carpeting. Funds raised by the millage are used very carefully to ensure the projects are completed and there is enough to cover other necessary repairs, like the chiller that has been spoken of several times at township meetings.

We know that our meeting room space is a valuable resource to our community, and we look forward to the time when we are able to loan these out for meetings again. These rooms remain unavailable to the public until it becomes safe for people to gather again. For now, your Monroe County Library System is providing a variety of programming that you can attend online. Visit our redesigned website at <http://mymcls.com> and look under Events for information about the programs available, including storytimes, book clubs, cooking, dog training, and more. We thank you for your patience and understanding and look forward to seeing you at your library! ■

The Bedford Green Initiatives Committee

By: Joyce Blanton, Justin Bates, Cathy Belville, Patricia Bull, Sara Guiher, Ryan Laskey, Kenneth Schumacher, Diane Smith, & Connie Velliquette

Going Native

There has been a lot of talk in the last few years about using native plants, especially grasses and wildflowers, in the landscape. Great, you say, for places like **Ansted Park** in Temperance, but I don't want a prairie in my suburban front yard, or the back yard for that matter!

Well, the good news is that native plants can be used effectively just like any others. They are plants after all. You can group them in masses of a single species and arrange them according to garden design principles such as height, scale, texture, shape, etc. They can be mixed with non-natives that require similar growing conditions.

Native plants are well adapted to our local soils and climate and, thus require little care. In fact, many resent pampering and prefer to rely on their own devices to deal with drought and pests.

The **Bedford Green Initiatives Committee** is planning on hosting a public seminar or webinar for 2021 to explore this topic in more depth. The **Bedford Library** will be adding more native plants to its landscaping this year as will the **Downtown Development Authority** at the Pearl Albert Green Park in front of Kroger's. And our Committee is working on plans to reduce mowing and maintenance in Township spaces, including our Government Center, with the use of native plants.

Look for our Committee's monthly articles in the **Bedford Press** and join us on Facebook for tips on how to live more "green" including using natives around your home.

Already considering some natives for your garden? The Monroe County Conservation District hosts a plant sale every year. Orders must be in by March 12 this year but the deadline for orders through the **Washtenaw Conservation District** in Ann Arbor is April 30. Check them out online. ■



Property Tax Information At Your Finger Tips

If you have an escrow account, your year-end mortgage statement will list the amounts that have been paid for your 2020 property taxes.

You can also use the township website, www.bedfordmi.org, 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

Treasurer's Department News

By: Krista Jandasek, Treasurer



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**.

2021 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.

2021 Current monthly sewer disposal rates are as follows (*billed quarterly*):

Operations and Maintenance (per 1,000 gallons).....	\$5.80
Depreciation (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.].....)	\$1.74
Debt Service (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.].....)	\$10.70

Average 2021 quarterly residential bill, based on a household of three is:

Operations and Maintenance (20,000 gallons).....	\$116.00
Depreciation (3 months).....	\$5.22
Debt Service (3 months).....	\$32.10
Total Average Quarterly Residential Bill.....	\$153.32

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, 2021, the **Bedford 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**. ■

The Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery

If you are new to the area you may not be aware that Bedford Township has four cemeteries that we oversee and maintain, **Lambertville Cemetery, Hitchcock Cemetery, Bedford Memorial Cemetery**, and our newest, **Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery**. Currently our newest cemetery, located at **10550 Lewis Avenue**, just south of Samaria Road, is the only one with plots still



available for purchase. We offer a monument section for upright headstones, a flat grave section for markers flush with the ground and a cremation section, for those requiring a smaller burial plot for cremains. If you are interested in purchasing a plot for yourself or a loved one, please contact the **Clerk's Department** at **734.224.7320**.

COST OF BURIAL SPACES

(prices below are current, but may be subject to change)

	Monument	Flat	Cremation/Infant
BEDFORD RESIDENT.....	\$750.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
NON-RESIDENT.....	\$1125.00	\$900.00	\$300.00

What Is That?

Do you have old electronics lurking about your home? Is your old computer collecting dust instead of data? For those looking to be “greener”, there is now an electronic recycling receptacle located in the front parking lot of the Township Hall.



The following items may be placed in:

- Computers/ Servers
- Keyboards/ Mice (please no live ones!)
- Monitors/ Displays
- Cell Phones
- Storage Devices/ Flash Drives
- Video Game Consoles
- Printers
- Scanners
- Memory/ RAM
- Networking Hardware
- Stereo Equipment/ Speakers
- Projectors

***Please note TV's and CRT Monitors are NOT ACCEPTED. ■

2021
Election
Calendar



May 4, 2021
County-Wide Election

ELECTION NEWS

Some of you may be thinking that elections are over and a thing of the past, but you would be mistaken. Many of you at the release of this article will have received yet another application for an Absentee Ballot and may be wondering, what now?

On **Tuesday, May 4, 2021** a county-wide election will take place. Bedford residents will be faced with two proposals on that ballot. One will be for the Monroe County Intermediate School District Technology millage. This renewal millage in the past has funded educational technology for the county's nine public school districts, and will also include the ISD, New Bedford Academy and Triumph Academy. The other item on the ballot will be for the Monroe County Museum System Funding Renewal and Increase Proposal. This millage will be for providing funding for maintenance, operations, staffing, capital improvements, general programs, County outreach programs, and for grants to further the preservation and display of historical artifacts for the Monroe County Museum System.

There is still time to request an absentee ballot application if you have not received one. Simply contact the **Clerk's Office** at **734.224.7320**, and we can send one to you. For voters who wish to vote absentee all the time, you can also ask to be placed on our Permanent Absentee Voter list. Please note, being placed on this list does not automatically get you a ballot, it merely allows our department to mail you the application before each election without you, the voter, having to request one each time. Voters on this list still have the option of voting in person, they simply will not return the application. If ever a voter would like to be removed from this list please notify the Clerk's Office in writing of your request. All polling locations will also be open the day of the election, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, for those wishing to vote in person.

Absentee applications and ballots can be returned to our office in one of three ways:

- Directly to our counter. The Township Hall is open to the public M-F 8AM to 5PM. Ballots can also be returned or requested at our counter Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 8AM-4PM.
- 24-Hour Drop Slot. We have a secure drop slot located on the south side of the building, next to the drive-thru window. This is always open and anything placed in this slot comes directly to our office.
- By Mail.

If you had thought at one time about helping out with elections but weren't sure what it entailed, this would be a great election to get your feet wet. Election inspectors are trained and paid for their time and it usually only requires a day or two of your time, once a year or every other year. Please contact the Clerk's office to fill out an application and join our election team. ■

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Clerk



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.

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. 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 that 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. ■

Who Do I Call?



**Supervisor
(734) 224-7322**

Calls regarding buildings and grounds in township, report pot-hole repair, street light malfunctions.

**Clerk
(734) 224-7320**

Calls regarding voter registration, elections, passports, cemeteries, peddler licenses, Freedom of Information requests and special assessment districts.

**Treasurer
(734) 224-7342**

Calls for tax bills, tax payments and sewer bills. (for water call South County Water (734) 847-0579). The Treasurer's Office also issues Bonfires and Burning Permits.

**Assessing Department
(734) 224-7353**

Calls relating to valuation of property in Bedford, property records and land divisions.

**Building Department
(734) 224-7330**

Calls for building plan review, building permits, and the inspection of all work performed under permits.

**Planning/Zoning Department
(734) 224-7331**

Calls for site plans, zoning changes, zoning ordinance language changes & geographic info, flood plain maps and Master Plan information.

**Ordinance Department
(734) 224-7350**

Calls for complaints regarding tall grass, noxious weeds, noise, blight, or other violations. Permits for Burning and Bonfires are now issued by the Treasurer's Office.

**(ILLEGAL BURNING)
Fire Department
(734) 243-7070**

The Fire Department will now handle all complaints for Illegal Burning. Please contact Monroe County Central Dispatch at the number shown above ■

A NOTE FROM YOUR ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

By: Damon Cecil, Ordinance Supervisor

Greetings residents of **Bedford Township**. The **Ordinance Department** has gone through a few changes that we would like to address with our community for the upcoming warm weather. **Spring burn season** begins on **April 2, 2021** and runs thru **May 30, 2021** on weekends only. The hours are as follows, Fridays from 2pm till 6pm, Saturday and Sundays are from 8am till 6pm. Due to staff cuts, the **Ordinance Department** will no longer be handling illegal burn calls. These calls will be handled by the **Bedford Fire Department**. To report illegal burning please call **Central Dispatch at 734.243.7070**.



As a result of loss in funding, our department will only be open **Monday thru Friday 8AM-5PM**. You can still contact our office any time at **734.224.7350** or **734.224.7341** and leave a message and we will get back with you as soon as possible regarding your concerns. **Tall grass season starts May 1**. It is a violation to have your grass exceed six inches in height. If you wish to make a complaint regarding tall grass contact **Officer Pitzen at 734.224.7341** and leave a message.

The **Save Our Seniors Program** will still be offered in our community. If you are in need of this program, or would like to offer assistance with this program, please contact **Officer Damon Cecil at 734.224.7350**. The **Ordinance Department** is sorry for any inconvenience these changes have caused. As always thank you Bedford residents for all your support. ■

Bedford Park Board Update

By: The Bedford Township Park Board

Members: Charles Mann V, Christopher Schlegel, Carol Laurie, Aaron Adler, and Andrew Brenot

Hello friends and neighbors. The **Bedford Park Board** wanted to take a minute to thank you. 2020 was a trying year for us as a society. With a pandemic, social unrest and major changes to our recreational, educational and work practices, almost every aspect of our lives was majorly affected in some way. However, through it all, you supported **YOUR** parks. Not only would we like to thank the volunteers who so generously gave their time, but also the people who just got out and enjoyed their parks. Please remember, these are your parks. The board believes with some responsible stewardship we can make the Bedford parks into some of the best in the region. We are currently discussing some ideas such as; an online reservation system, replacing and lighting basketball and tennis courts, a pump track for bikes and a dog park. We also have some larger dreams such as a future sledding hill, fishing pond and a paved walking path. But none of these can become a reality without you. We need your help. Get involved. "Attend" our virtual meetings and volunteer when we have opportunities. Contact your local park board member and have a conversation about what is important to you. Most importantly, use and appreciate your parks system. We are all lucky to call Bedford home and to have ample space to develop a wonderful parks system for the future. We as a board are grateful to represent you and have an active seat in helping our visions develop. And for that, we thank you. ■

**Bedford Township
Fire Department**



**Our Mission Is To
Save, Serve, & Protect!**

Bedford Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Once again, we had a lot of changes and considerable growth in 2020. Our call volume exceeded 3,000 for the first time ever. Our dedicated members did a great job keeping up with the increased demand for service even with all the challenges COVID brought to our lives.

Having completed a staffing model update in early January, we now have at least 4 firefighters on duty 24-hours each day to respond quickly for emergencies. In addition to our station staffing, we have 46 members that are asked to respond from home for larger incidents such as building fires or car crashes.

Station 3 on Lewis Avenue is staffed with **1 Firefighter-Paramedic** and **1 Firefighter-EMT** each day and **Station 2 in Lambertville** is staffed the same with two members ready to respond quickly for emergencies. **Station 1 in Temperance** houses our **Administrative Offices** and a small contingency of emergency apparatus. While **Station 1** has staff available during daytime hours, the budget doesn't allow for overnight staffing at this time.

Our firefighters are among the most highly trained in the county with each certified member required to complete at least 72 hours of training each year in order to maintain membership. In addition to the required training, you will often find on-shift crews completing extra training behind the Township Hall on a regular basis.

Nearly half of our department's members have been with us for less than four years which makes our roster seem very young. Having such a young department is a blessing though. We are working hard to develop our young talent and build a strong team capable of handling every challenge thrown our way, no matter which combination of members are available at any given time.

As we move further into 2021, we hope to continue building stronger relationships with our mutual aid partners. Even with a solid roster and highly skilled members, we rely on our neighbors in **Whiteford, Erie, Ida, Toledo**, and elsewhere to help us with larger incidents.

We look forward to what 2021 will bring and are honored to serve you, our neighbors! ■



Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Library Advisory Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month at 6:30 PM
Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
Board of Review	Meets in March and possibly in July and December
Board of Zoning Appeals	Meets 1 st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
Communications/Media Commission	Meets at 6:30 PM the 2 nd Monday of every 3 rd month
Downtown Development Authority	Meets 2 nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM
Fire Advisory Committee	Meets 3 rd Thursday of every other month · Fire Station at 7:00 PM
Green Initiative Committee	Meets at 10:00 AM the 1 st Wednesday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM · Ivor Lindsay · 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee	Meets 1 st Monday of each month at 10:00 AM
Park Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
Planning Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM

- 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 Township 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 Cable Box the Wednesday after the meeting at 9:00 AM and the following Thursday at 7:00 PM

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic many of the Bedford Township Meetings are now being held virtually on the Bedford Township Website www.bedfordmi.org. For those who desire to watch and/or participate in these meetings we post the needed passcodes to access the meeting on the front page of our Website. For questions please contact the Bedford Township Government Center.