



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XXI • ISSUE II • SUMMER 2020

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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
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
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer
kjandasek@bedfordmi.org

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

Planning Department.....7331
Karen Kincaid, Administrator
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Building Department.....7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official
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Assessing Department.....7353
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Damon Cecil, Supervisor
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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

ELECTION NEWS Reminders & Changes This Year Due To The Pandemic

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

If you're a new resident to Bedford Township, have moved, just turned 18 years of age, or haven't voted in several years, you may not be sure if you're registered to vote here. The easiest way to check, if you have internet access, is to go to our website, www.bedfordmi.org, "Click" on Voter/Election Information (located towards the bottom right corner of the page), then "Click" on the Voter Registration Information tab located in the top right corner. This site will give you election information and tell you if you are registered to vote and where your precinct is located. Voters without internet access are also welcome to contact my office 734.224.7320, where myself or a member of my staff will be happy to assist you.

ABSENTEE VOTERS

With the two upcoming elections this year (the August Primary on August 4th and the November Presidential Election on November 3rd), I would like to remind our permanent absentee voters to sign their applications and return them to my office, if you haven't already done so.

In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary of State will be mailing absent voter ballot applications, in advance of the August Election, to all registered voters in the state who are not currently on a Permanent Absentee Voter List.

Please note that once you have submitted your application to my office, we will mail you a ballot. If you receive additional mailings with absent voter ballot applications, you may disregard these, as

they are usually from an organization and not issued by an election official. If you are in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 734.224.7320.

Below are eight things to know about voting an absentee ballot.

- Any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot.** As a result of **Proposal 3** approved by voters in **November 2018** anyone can request an absentee ballot for an election and need not give a reason for doing so. Simply call my office 734.224.7320 and request an application. You can then cast your ballot anytime between now and August 4th.
- Absentee ballots can be obtained by mail or in person.** Friday, July 31, is the last day that election clerks will mail out absentee ballots for the August 4th election. Absentee ballots can also be obtained in person at the clerk's office. Ballots picked up in person at our office cannot be given to anyone other than the voter. Voters will be asked to present a valid photo ID when obtaining an absentee ballot in person.
- For the August primary, the State of Michigan law states that in a primary election a voter can only vote a single party.** For our absentee ballot voters; if you mistakenly or inadvertently vote for both Democrat and Republican candidates in the primary election, the only portion that will count is the non-partisan portion and any proposals that may be on the ballot, everything else will be disqualified. If you make a mistake on your ballot you can bring it back to the township, with photo I.D. and receive a new ballot.
- The Clerk's office will be open Saturday, August 1 from 8 am-4 pm.** Monday, August 3, is the deadline for getting an absentee ballot. The deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot is 4 p.m. Monday, August 3. However, ballots picked up on Monday from the Township Clerk must be voted and turned in immediately; they cannot be taken home.
- Election Day is the deadline for returning absentee ballots.** Absentee ballots must be in the hands of the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on August 4th. Postmarks don't count. The law requires election officials to spoil absentee ballots that arrive after 8:00 pm on Election Day. That being said please don't wait until the last minute to mail in your ballot. Absentee ballots can also be hand-delivered to my office or by dropping them in our secure drop box located on the south side of our building, directly next to the drive thru window.
- Make sure to fill out the ballot correctly -- including signing the envelope.** One big advantage of voting in person on Election Day is your ballot is immediately fed into a tabulator and if it's filled out improperly, you know immediately. Absentee voters don't have that opportunity, it is important you read all of the instructions with your ballot. Use a ballpoint pen vs. a felt marker and clearly mark all of your selections. Remember cross over voting is not permitted in a Primary election. Sign the ballot envelope. Only the voter can sign their envelope. All signatures are verified against the signature in your voter file records. If your signature doesn't match what is on record you will receive a letter or phone call from my office. Please note, unsigned ballots cannot be counted.
- If you lose your absentee ballot or change your mind on how to vote, you can get a new ballot.** If you lost your ballot, or have changed your mind, you can obtain a new ballot from the clerk's office before 4 p.m. Monday, August 3.
- Do I have to vote absentee this year? NO.** You still have the right to vote in person at your polling location.

Finally, I would like to remind voters that a primary election does not officially elect anyone to an office. A primary election narrows the field for each office to the number of positions open, for each political party. A candidate can lose in a Primary Election but they cannot win an office in a Primary Election.



Sample Absentee Voter Application Form

Please note that the above is the Absentee Voter Application Form that is mailed by the Bedford Township Clerk's Office to voters on the Township's permanent Absentee list. This is NOT the one that the State will send out. When you receive the above Form please fill-out and return to the Bedford Township Clerk's Office in the envelope provided as soon as possible.



Remember To Vote August 4



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor

Bedford Responds To Adversity

Over the past months, it seems much in our world has been turned upside down as we – **as a community – have come together to grapple with the implications of COVID-19.** We have seen incredible stories of commitment to one another throughout this time of stay-at-home orders and closure of schools and businesses. We have also seen amazing examples of creativity as we collectively figure out new ways of doing pretty much everything.

Who knew a year ago that things would be so much different today? States and local municipalities hadn't dealt with anything of this magnitude for over 100 years. A year ago, the economy was great and we were looking with optimism to the future. The Township was moving in the right direction. Roads were being improved, local companies were hiring, and the spirit of volunteerism took hold on many projects like our much-anticipated festivals. Our community was looking to have some fun this spring and summer, but even the best laid plans don't always happen as we plan. As the virus started to take hold and the Governor made the decision to shut down our state, many of us in Bedford were confused and afraid. Our residents had many questions and not a lot of answers. How would we teach our children if the schools shut down for the rest of the year? How would companies and employees deal with layoffs? How would we stay safe during this safety concern? How would families survive the loss of income? And most concerning, how many lives would this virus take?

Just like in the 1918 pandemic, the American people showed again how as citizens we get through these times with creativity and a can-do attitude. America fought then and the nation survived. We as a Country have faced wars and natural disasters and each time we survived, learned, and came through as a nation. Our great Country (and our great Township) has been put through another tough test, and we will be better prepared if any virus like Covid-19 were to ever strike again. As a Township, we are working on a long-term plan that will ensure our first responders have the supplies they need and our workers will be safe while performing their duties from here on out.

What we have seen during this time is that our medical workers are second to none and our first responders are fearless when responding to emergency calls. Our school officials and staff have a deep love and concern for our children's well-being and education. Everyday people used the talents and the gifts they possess to sew masks, organize food drives, watch children of essential workers, and deliver groceries and supplies to the most vulnerable. There were even businesses that adapted to help in this time of need as factories converted over production from their normal goods to making respirators and masks. There were many unsung heroes like our grocery store workers who risked their lives to serve us. Lastly, a group of college students couldn't stand idle watching farmers having to throw away food while food banks were running out. These young people connected farmers to food

banks through an organization they formed called Farmlink. These students set up volunteers, coordinated logistics with truckers, and now food is not being wasted. That is what this Country is all about. We help each other. Our creativity on solving problems and helping others was at an all-time high during this time, and it showed.

On a local level Bedford Township's creativity kicked in like never before. When most of us felt bad that high school graduation day was taken away from our seniors, a concerned citizen started a Facebook group that allowed Bedford Township residents to adopt these high school seniors so that they would be honored and not forgotten. When we couldn't celebrate birthdays, people did drive-by parades and celebrations. When children were at home all day, neighbors put teddy bears and easter eggs in windows for hunts as children walked or biked around their neighborhood. On **Facebook**, people were volunteering to help in any way they could. A local business sold much needed hand sanitizer at their cost to help others. Now, as various companies and organizations begin the slow and measured process of reopening, it is time for even more commitment in supporting and patronizing these local businesses as much as we possibly can.

Many in our community have never experienced unemployment or lack of food, until this time. However once again, Bedford residents and our local agencies like **Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP)** began doing food drives and **Lions Club** offered free meals to help those in need. **Bedford School** employees worked to feed our kids because they deeply care for our students. Bedford residents also became more aware of how important it is to support our local businesses during this crisis. When carryout was allowed, many of us made it a point to buy from our local restaurants. Over the years, our local business owners and their employees have become our friends and they need our continued support.

This has been and continues to be a hard time for all, but we will overcome it! We live in a great and unique community. You may be greeting and getting to know your neighbors as they walk past your house like you never have had the chance to do in the past. My Deputy, **Al Prieur** who is an avid bicyclist, reports he has never seen so many people riding bikes with their families. Take this opportunity to spread some joy, share what you have available to you, learn something new, spend a little more time with your family, and stay strong. In the end we will be all right, because we are **BEDFORD STRONG!** ■

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

- President Harry S. Truman



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Millage Request on August 4 Ballot!

On **August 4th** Bedford voters will be asked to decide on a millage request to **MAINTAIN** the current level of fire protection in Bedford Township. If approved, this request would **REPLACE** the current operations millage **AND** expiring federal staffing grant.

The **Operations Millage** funds every facet of the Fire Department except vehicle purchases, which are funded through a separate millage passed in 2018. The department relies on the Operations Millage as a funding source to provide Advanced Life Support, Fire Protection, Public Education, Training, and all other functions of the department. In addition to important services, the Operations Millage funds everything from medical supplies for treating our residents to fuel for the vehicles.

Without an operations millage, the department would have virtually no funding source with which to provide Fire and Emergency Medical Service for the 2,800+ emergency calls we respond to each year.

On August 4th, taxpayers will decide a path forward for their Fire Department. I hope that each of you takes time from your busy schedules to contact me and get a clear picture of the current level of service we provide for our residents. As social distancing restrictions ease up, I would encourage everyone to stop for a visit and get a feel for the great things our Bedford Township Firefighters are doing for our community. ■

Have A Safe Summer Everyone!

A Note From Your Ordinance Department

Spring is in full swing. A great time to enjoy your family and friends, but be safe while doing it. If a campfire is on your agenda, be reminded that campfires are permitted daily between 3 PM and midnight. Please use clean wood only and keep your fire to 3x3 feet in size.

Also, we would like to remind you of the noxious weeds/tall grass ordinance (# 22). Per the ordinance, you must maintain your grass and weeds. Your grass must be mowed at least 1x a month and remain under six (6) inches. If our department receives a complaint, we will inspect the property and if you are found in violation a 10-day letter will be mailed to you. If after 10 days, you have not cut your grass, we will then send our contracted lawn service out to cut it and then bill it to your property taxes.

For grass complaints, please call **Officer Shayla Pitzen** at **734.224.7341**. And have a safe summer! ■

News From The Assessing Department

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

If you have recently purchased a new or used home but have not sold your former Michigan home, the Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Michigan Form 4640 may be of help.

This exemption has been available for a number of years. This exemption allows a property owner who is occupying a new or used home to also hold the PRE exemption on their former home if unsold for up to three (3) years. Both homes **MUST BE** in Michigan. Dates and restrictions apply.

This form can be found by visiting the State of Michigan Website at www.michigan.gov/documents/taxes/4640_231633_7.pdf. You can download and print Michigan Government Form 4640 Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption. Instructions for the form are located on page 2 of this form.

We hope this information has been helpful. If you have questions you may call the Bedford Assessing Office, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182 at 734.224.7353. ■



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. ■



Treasurer's Department News

By: Krista Jandasek, Bedford Township Treasurer

2020 Summer Tax Bills and More....

2020 Summer Tax Bills

The **2020 Summer Tax Bills** will be mailed out on July 1st. They are due and payable on or by September 14, 2020. On September 15, 2020 a 1% interest charge must be added to the unpaid tax bill and an additional 1% must be added the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is paid in full.

Property taxes can be paid by cash or check payable to **Bedford Township Treasurer**, by mail, by using the drive-up window, drop box or by coming into **Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. You can pay online or by phone with a debit or credit card as well as electronic check (*third party fees apply*). The Summer and Winter taxes can be debited from your savings or checking account; however, you would need to file the ACH authorization form with the Treasurer's office. Taxes can be paid at **First Merchants Bank (Temperance Branch only)** as well as **Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch only)** for your convenience.

Deferred Payment of 2020 Summer Tax Bills

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of 2020 Summer taxes if you household resources (taxable and non-taxable income) is less than \$40,000. Qualified agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. The deferment application form must be filed with the **Township Treasurer's office** on or before September 14, 2020.

Sewer & Water Information

Summer is upon us, if you are planning on watering your grass or filling a swimming pool you may want to have a second water meter installed to monitor your consumption for non-sanitary sewer purposes. **THERE IS A COST FOR THE SECONDARY METER**, please contact **South County Water at 734.847.0579** for further information and specific details.

Sewer Payments

We now offer **ACH (automatic debit)** for your sewer payments. You can either access the forms online at www.bedfordmi.org (*the third bullet point on the left-hand side*), or contact our office and we will gladly mail or email a form to you. Fill the form out and send it into our office with a voided check. Sewer payments are debited from your account on the day that they are due. If the due date falls on a weekend or a holiday it will be taken out the next business day. If you would like your sewer bill automatically debited please contact the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Office** for information at **734.224.7342**. ■

Township Treasurer Retires

A Message From Paul R. Francis

As some of you may already know, it was with deep personal regret based on the advice of medical professionals and loving family members, and due to recent and continuing medical issues, I submitted to the Township Board members my resignation as Treasurer of Bedford Township effective at midnight on May 31, 2020.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the residents of Bedford Township as Treasurer for the past seven and a half years, and the eight years prior to that as Township Trustee. I am especially proud that the Treasurer's Department computerized the cash receipting process, which significantly streamlined department operations and greatly increased the accuracy of recording transactions.



Deputy Treasurer, Mrs. Krista Jandasek, was appointed by the Township Board to be the Township Treasurer effective June 1, 2020, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office for the balance of the current term (*November 2020*). Mrs. Jandasek has almost eighteen years' experience in the treasurer's office. Rest assured that the treasurer's office will continue to provide accurate and efficient services to township residents. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

All branches of the **Monroe County Library System** have been closed since March 15 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please note that no fines will be assessed on any items that were checked out during this period of time. Our top priority is to ensure the health and safety of our patrons and our staff. Because the library is a place where people congregate, we will begin providing services curbside prior to opening the doors to patrons and will only do so once we can be sure it is safe. At the time of the writing of this article, our plans for re-opening are not yet finalized. We anticipate re-opening in phases as follows:

- Staff will assess the library space and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of patrons, including moving furnishings and computers to provide for social distancing requirements and installing temporary shields at work stations.
- We will begin providing curbside pickup of materials. Patrons can place holds online at mymcls.com or call the **Bedford Branch Library at 734.847.6747**. Staff will arrange pickup times with patrons. Hours for curbside pickup will be **Monday–Thursday 11am – 7pm** and **Friday–Saturday 10am – 4pm**.
- We anticipate that we will also be able to provide copy/scan/fax/print services via curbside operations. Visit our website or call the library for more information on this service.
- The next phase will include allowing limited people in the building at a time, ensuring safe distancing.
- Meeting rooms will be unavailable for groups for the foreseeable future.
- We will **NOT** be accepting any donations of materials for several months. Thank you for understanding!
- While we've been closed the HVAC controls system has been installed. That job will be completed and operational before we re-open, improving the efficiency of the building, reducing costs of operation, and improving the comfort for the people using the building. In addition, the damaged sidewalk on the north side of the building has been replaced at minimum cost. These two items were part of the capital improvement plan to be completed with the money generated by the millage passed in 2018.
- We appreciate your support and understanding during this difficult time as we slowly try to get back to full service to our community. Please know the library is always available to you through our digital resources, including the following:
- Our website at mymcls.com where you can request materials through our catalog.
- WIFI at all of our buildings that is strong enough to reach the parking lot.
- Hoopla, RBDigital, OverDrive, and Kanopy for ebooks, eaudiobooks, comic books, television shows and movies, magazines, and more!
- Online research resources from quality sources for all ages, including test and skills improvement, auto repair help, health and wellness, and many educational sources. Visit <https://monroe.lib.mi.us/research/online-resources> for more information about these resources.

Call us at **734.847.6747** for more information. Please leave a detailed message and your call will be returned. ■

Don't Forget Your 2020 Census Response

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

United States® Census 2020

The **2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and its five U.S. territories**. Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government.

Responding is easy and takes only a few minutes. In mid-March people began receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Responses can then be submitted online, by phone, or by mail. To learn more visit <https://2020census.gov> or call 844.330.2020. All responses are kept confidential. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

The Township has a secure 24 hour Drop Box located on the south side of our building (*facing Jackman Road Elementary*). You can place bill payments, ballots, applications, return Assessing postcards, etc. ■



Bedford Park Board News

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

Welcome To Summer In Our Community!

We on the Park Board hope you and your family continue to enjoy your **Bedford Township Parks** in every season. **Ansted, Indian Creek** and **Wheeler Preserve** are open for your enjoyment. Walking and running on these trails are wonderful ways to include nature in your life. Time spent in Nature is a great stress reliever. And who couldn't use that now during this unprecedented time. Check out the variety of birds and their nests. See how many species you can identify. There is a great app from the **Cornell Labs** called **Merlin** which will help with bird identification, as well as several guides written on the topic. Check out the **Monarch Way Stations** for the growing caterpillars as well as eggs and chrysalis on the milkweed plants. Better yet, create a butterfly garden of your own. And wherever possible use native varieties.

Carr's Grove, Parmelee, Samaria, and White Park remain closed at this time. We will consider reopening these when this area moves into stage 4 of the **MI Safe Start** plan. Park maintenance will continue so please thank our maintenance staff if you encounter them along your stroll.

Look for a "virtual opening ceremony" of **Wheeler Preserve** soon. Please remember that no dogs are permitted in the preserve. And just a reminder that the **2020 Fireworks have been cancelled**. A bigger and better one is planned for next year! ■



Ansted Park Trail Entrance

VOTING Is Your RIGHT... USE IT!

By TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

I hope this article finds you doing well and safe. I want to be **VERY CLEAR** up front, nothing in this article is meant to endorse, support, or encourage any vote for any single candidate. As **YOUR** Trustee, that would be highly inappropriate. However, as **YOUR** Trustee, I want you to understand how important each and every one of you are to the future of our township, county, state and nation.

I continue to be amazed how many people do not realize how unique or special our right to vote is when compared to other countries. Our Constitution places the power in the hands of the people. **YOUR** rights are protected by the Bill of Rights and Constitution, not the governments. I only bring this up as we often hear complaints about elected leaders that do not listen or follow the voice of the people. This is an area that we all should consider when we cast our vote. One of your times to be most vocal is when it comes time to select **YOUR** leaders.

In the coming months, **WE THE PEOPLE** get to exercise one of our most important rights, as we get to vote. You do not have to. But you should. This is **YOUR** time to be heard. This is **YOUR** time to have a say in your future. This is **YOUR** time to elect your leaders.

While voting is important for races from the township level to the federal level, I am going to spare you the lengthy explanation of why a popular vote matters even within the context of the electoral college. Instead, I want to focus on our local township.

YOUR township board is your closest elected leaders. **WE** are extremely accessible and open to hearing from you. Specifically, as **YOUR** Trustee, I am by definition **YOUR** voice. **YOUR** Trustee's are your elected "watchdogs" to ensure that your voice, will, and desires are administered via our three full-time elected officials (*Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer*). I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving as **YOUR** Trustee and have enjoyed being **YOUR** voice. It is an honor that has been rewarding and one in which I am proud of the work that has been done on **YOUR** behalf.

I am not seeking re-election as a Trustee as I have decided to take a different path (*That story is for another article*). However, you have a number of people that have made the decision to work to earn your vote in August and November. As **YOUR** current Trustee I encourage you to research, talk to, and study up on your choices. Learn about their beliefs, their philosophy, and their experience. Those that get elected will be your voice for the next several years. Be sure they are the voices you want to represent you and then when elected, support them, talk to them, and provide input to them on how you feel. ■



The Last 20 Months!

By Craig Montri, Bedford Township Trustee

As I sit down to write this, and reminisce over the last 20 months, all I can think is that my time so far has been fantastic. We have so many great things going for us here in Bedford Township. One thing that really sticks out, given my new perspective, is what great leadership we have. John Maxwell says that "Everything rises and falls on leadership." I think that means, among other things, that it takes leadership to maximize potential. I believe very strongly in the great potential of, anything and everything, Bedford. But without great leadership, it is very unlikely for any organization, even Bedford, to achieve its full potential. Thankfully that is what I continually see in this community, great leaders. I see people all over this community working hard to make Bedford into what it is fully capable of being.



Craig Montri

Three men specifically have stuck out to me in this regard. Not to say I see eye-to-eye on every issue with these three, quite the contrary in fact, but that isn't what leadership and getting things done is about. And it certainly doesn't void mutual respect or spawn animosity. That is a trait that I distinctly appreciate about each of these men. The world would greatly benefit by learning this lesson.

So let's get to it. The first of the three is one that, for those less involved, could be easy to overlook or just be completely unaware, but we have an absolutely outstanding Fire Chief in Adam Massingill. I wish you could read the weekly updates he puts together keeping our entire board so well-informed; and I wish you knew all of the behind the scenes things he is doing to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. The effort put in on a daily basis to lead our Fire Department in the right direction is nothing short of world-class. Another great leader we are blessed to have in this community is Dr. Carl Shultz, Superintendent of Bedford Public Schools. Dr. Shultz is engaged, and he cares; and that is a big deal for students and families alike. You may not be on Twitter, but the students of Bedford are, so Dr. Shultz is too. He keeps families informed, attends the sporting events and other extra-curriculars, puts himself out there, and works tirelessly to put our schools in a position to be the best they can be. And given the entirety of our current situation, it is reassuring to know that we have a leader like him in that position to make the difficult decisions that are being made right now and the ones that lie ahead. Thirdly, I will mention Supervisor Paul Pirrone. I often quip that Mr. Pirrone and I disagree about everything. I say that in jest, but there is also a lot of truth to the statement. Like I said before though, for good leaders, that doesn't mean that is cause for animosity or loss of respect. I actually believe our differing viewpoints have fostered respect, in that we don't take the differing opinion personally, rather, we take it into consideration. I think it's fair to say that this Supervisor is one of the most available this township has ever seen. That man handles a lot of phone calls and anyone who has been there knows that his door is always open. One thing that can't be disputed is that he is putting in the effort, and that he is striving to make Bedford the best that it can be.

I would end by asking you to pray for these men, and other leaders in our community and our country. We have entered a time when true leadership will be paramount, and without the guiding hand of Providence, we will surely lose our way. ■

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.