



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP The Township Update

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XXI • ISSUE III • FALL 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
Christine Eichler	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
Planning Department.....	7331
Karen Kincaid, Administrator	kkincaid@bedfordmi.org
Building Department.....	7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official	dkolar@bedfordmi.org
Assessing Department.....	7353
Christine Eichler, Assessor	ceichler@bedfordmi.org
Ordinance Department.....	7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor	dcecil@bedfordmi.org
Trustee's Office.....	
TC Clements	tclements@bedfordmi.org
Craig Montri	cmontri@bedfordmi.org
Rick Steiner	rsteiner@bedfordmi.org
Nancy Tienvieri	ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org
Fire Department.....	734.847.2359
Adam Massingill, Fire Chief	amassingill@bedfordmi.org
Sheriff's Department	
Bedford Township	
Non-Emergency.....	734.847.6146
Emergency.....	911
(Bedford Substation Officers)	
Detective/Sergeant.....	7315
Detective.....	7316
Deputy.....	7318

Monroe County Non-Emergency.....734.243.7070

Township Offices Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King's Birthday
- President's Day
- Good Friday (afternoon)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Friday following Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve

Graphic and Printing services provided by Bedford Township residents

2020 Summer Tax Bills & More

Your 2020 Summer Tax bills are due and payable on or before **September 14, 2020** without interest being assessed. If you cannot pay the amount in one full payment, we accept partial payments. By Michigan statute, on September 15th, a 1% interest charge must be added to your unpaid tax bill, and an additional 1% must be added each month thereafter until the tax bill is paid in full.

Taxes may be paid by cash or check payable to **Bedford Township Treasurer**, by mail (*using the return envelope provided*), by using our convenient drive-up window or drop box at **8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. In addition, payments may be made by debit or credit card, and electronic check by going to our website www.bedfordmi.org (*there is a 3% fee to pay with a debit or credit card*). Also, for your convenience, taxes may be paid at **First Merchants Bank (Temperance Branch Only)**, and **Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch Only)**.

If you would like to have your taxes automatically withdrawn (ACH) from your checking or savings account please contact the Treasurer's department and we will be happy to get the form to you.

2020 Summer Tax Deferment

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their 2020 Summer taxes, if your household income (*taxable and non-taxable*) is \$40,000 or less. Qualifying agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. A deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the Township Treasurer's office before the September 14, 2020 deadline. If you qualify, payment of your 2020 Summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2021 without any interest or penalty added. Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's office** at (734) 224-7342 for the required forms and/or information regarding the deferment process.

Payments For Sewer & Water Bills

We currently offer **E-Billing** and **ACH (Automatic Debit Authorization)** for payment of sewer bills. If you would like your sewer bill emailed to you and/or automatically debited please contact the Treasurer's Office for information at (734) 224-7342.

Sewer bills may be paid by cash or check payable to Bedford Township, by mail, by using our convenient drive-up window or drop box. In addition, payments may be made by debit or credit card, and electronic check by going to our website www.bedfordmi.org (*there is a fee for this service*).

Water bills may be paid by cash or check payable to **South County Water System**, by using our drive-up window or drop box. You can also mail them to **South County Water, 8489 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI 48182** or drop them in their drop box.

Drive-up Window

I would like to thank the residents on behalf of the **Treasurer's Department** for being patient these last few months during this pandemic. The drive-up window has been and will continue to be the main source of conducting business for all the departments in the **Government Center** until we are able to fully open to the public. Many times there have been backups and you, the residents have been understanding and patient. With that being said, Thank You! ■

Treasurer's Department News

By: Krista Jandasek, Treasurer



HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE 2020 CENSUS?

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Clerk

PER A CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE, SINCE 1790, the Census has been taking place every 10 years. The goal of the 2020 Census is a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States and its five territories. You should count yourself at the place where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day).

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

Canvassers **WILL ALWAYS** have on their person an official government badge. The ID badge should have a photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. In addition, they will carry an official bag and laptop with the 2020 Census logo on them, and **WILL NEVER ASK FOR:** 1) your social security number; 2) money or donations; 3) bank or credit card numbers, or; 4) anything on behalf of a political party. Workers can also be verified by contacting the Regional Census office at **800-923-8282**. The Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep all of your answers confidential. They cannot release information to anyone about your home, your business or you, not even to law enforcement agencies.



WHY SHOULD I RESPOND? The data collected through the census can only be used to produce statistics and helps with federal funding. Much of the information revealed in the census helps the federal government decide on where and how much funding to allocate to states, cities and counties for such items as roads, schools, emergency response, hospitals and healthcare.

HOW TO RESPOND

- Online: my2020census.gov
- By Phone: **844-330-2020 (English)**. For other language options, visit: my2020census.gov and select **How To Respond**
- By Mail: Return the paper questionnaire sent to your home in the envelope that was provided, or in the case of a lost return envelope,
Mail to:
National Processing Center
1201 E 10th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

News From The Assessing Department

Christine Eichler, MAAO
 Bedford Township Assessor

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The **December Board of Review** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 9:00 am at Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. This meeting is to correct qualified errors and mutual mistakes of fact; late filed PRE's; qualified agricultural, disabled veteran's, hardship exemptions and taxable value uncapping.

LAND DIVISION/ COMBINATION INFORMATION

• **EFFECTIVE 2019 HB 4055, now Public Act 23 of 2019** – "All property taxes & special assessments due on the parcel or tract subject to the proposed division for the 5 years preceding the date of the application have been paid, as established by a certificate from the County Treasurer of the county in which the parcel or tract is located."

Please contact the **Monroe County Treasurer Office** at (734) 240-7365.

• Applications must be 100% completed and all required documents must be turned into the **Assessing Department** on or before **December 31, 2020** for the **2021** tax year.

REMINDERS

- Our department will be doing fieldwork heavily this fall for new construction, sales, re-roof's, and our ongoing annual reappraisal reviews. Township Assessing staff will be in marked township vehicles and have photo ID's. They will wear masks and practice social distancing while conducting fieldwork.
- Fall is a good time to review property records to ensure your data is accurate. You can easily find and review your property information by checking online at: <https://bsaonline.com/?uid=328>. ■

The Pandemic Will Not Stop Bedford Township

2020 has offered a unique and interesting spring and summer. As we all know the COVID-19 virus hit this country toward the beginning of 2020 and hit especially hard in March. The Township Board began our virtual meetings and the Governor required everyone to stay home to prevent the spread of the virus. It has not been an easy task to maintain the responsibility of governing, but we are elected to continue to operate your government no matter what difficulties confront us. I took an oath to *"faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I was elected to the best of my ability"*. Although this has been a challenge given the parameters of social distancing and similar difficulties, our office has still been active, involved, and moving forward to promote and enhance Bedford Township.

Even though the Township Offices were required by the Governor to close to the public for a time, the entire Township Board and all of the departments in this office worked tirelessly to continue functioning remotely to continue serving the Bedford residents. All of the calls to the Supervisor's office were transferred to my own and my Township cell phone as a result of the office being closed to the public on a regular basis. The Assessing Department was able to work remotely and the Ordinance and Maintenance Departments continued to operate, as they were considered essential.



The Ordinance Department and I began the Save-Our-Seniors program last year and we have continued to answer calls, make visits, and assist Bedford seniors in this program through this pandemic. Of course we use all the safety methods laid out when greeting or meeting with our residents. The dedication from this department is phenomenal and always puts residents first. We also work in conjunction with the Fire Department to answer calls on burning so that our firefighters can be available to answer serious medical and fire calls and not be detained at a leaf burning site.

Sadly, the pandemic has caused us to eliminate (*for the time being*) most of the social gatherings that I have helped coordinate. Bedford residents have grown to enjoy events such as the Summerfest, Temperance Streetfest, and Blizzardfest. I am confident that these much-anticipated events will return once we get past this time. I have been strongly encouraged to continue these events because one thing that brings the heart of this community together is getting together. A huge part of my vision is to have a family atmosphere in our community where we support one another and bring out the best in our neighbors, businesses, schools, and churches. Community pride invites new business and visitors and also helps us to feel good about where we reside.

Another event that will begin again when it is safe to meet in groups is the town hall meetings. Residents have asked that these continue as it has been an opportunity for the community to be more completely informed on topics of interest to them. These meetings also give residents the ability to understand their government and how townships operate. Bedford is not a city, and its government does not function like a city. We are the most basic form of government. Your elected government cannot impose additional taxes without a vote of the people. That is why when you go to the polls you

see proposals on the ballot asking for **YOUR** approval to determine if you want to pay more taxes to support these proposals. Another positive side of township government is that we are governed by a Board and decisions are not made by one person, but a board of seven members. As Supervisor, I am proud that your Board is cohesive and works as one for the best interest of the people, while each member offers his or her unique perspectives. Most of the changes and new initiatives I have brought to the Board are in line with the collective direction of the Board. The town hall meetings will continue, so please contact me on topics that are of interest to you.

Another goal that is soon to be accomplished, even though we have been hampered by the pandemic, is our goal to develop and adopt a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). On my list of proposed ideas when I became Supervisor was for the Board to adopt a CIP. A CIP is necessary in order to plan for capital improvements for expensive maintenance, repair, construction, vehicles, roads, and other necessary expenditures of taxpayer dollars without requesting extra tax dollars, expensive loans and bonding. Previous Boards have never developed a CIP, though it would have been a perfect method of funding the Government Center when it was built. If Bedford Township had been putting money aside over the years and earmarking it for specific projects, the cost of bonding or loans would have been nearly eliminated. There are times when emergencies may arise in which there is not sufficient money in the CIP. However, setting aside money each budget year cuts down on the financing of those emergencies. The Bedford Township CIP is moving forward through the Planning Commission and will soon come to the Township Board for approval.

As we move into autumn, we all pray that this virus will be annihilated and/or we will soon have more effective ways to reduce the spread and treat it. I ask you to please be confident that your government is on the job and is working for you. Your Township Board continues to meet in virtual meetings, conducting the business of Bedford Township. My office continues to plan for the upcoming season changes and will continue snowplowing of residential streets as we have in the last few years. We are also continuing to collaborate with the schools on ways we can work together to save your tax dollars, such as sharing the cost of buying salt in bulk, partnering on projects like the sidewalk from the junior high to the library, etc. I have collaborated with the Sheriff and Superintendent of Schools to have a School Safety Liaison Officer present as schools prepare to re-open for learning. The cost of this officer was a shared effort between the school and the Township as safety of our community's children are of utmost importance. I am here to assist the Bedford residents, businesses, schools and community. I welcome your ideas, questions, concerns, and input so please always feel free to contact me. My job is to serve Bedford residents and that is what I do.....*pandemic or not!* ■

From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone, Supervisor



Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

We'd like to say **THANK YOU** to Bedford voters for supporting the Monroe County Library System's renewal millage on the August ballot. We will continue to bring you quality library service. Your Library System's administration and staff are working diligently to get your library open as quickly and safely as possible. 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, at the point when we allow people to enter the building we have to ensure we are limiting the number of people at any one time to help ensure proper distancing.

- Please watch media postings for current library operations details including local newspapers, television stations, the **Library System's webpage** (<https://mymcls.com>), the **Library System's Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/mymcls>) the Township's website, or the **Friends of the Bedford Library Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthebedfordlibrary>).
- We appreciate your support and understanding during this difficult time as we 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.
- As with everything else in our world, library visits will look a bit different. Here's what you need to know before you visit. Masks are required, per the Executive Orders, to enter the building. When we are ready to let people into the building our capacity is limited to 25% of the normal capacity. Therefore we will be accepting people into the building by appointment when it is deemed safe to do so. Appointments can be made by calling the library at **734-847-6747**.
- Our service will be Grab & Go, allowing each person entering the building a 30 minute time period to find materials they need or use computers or other library services. This is considered a safe step to limit exposure to anyone who may be asymptomatic.
- We will continue to provide curbside pickup of materials for anyone who prefers their library service that way or who are unable to wear a mask. Patrons can place holds online at mymcls.com or call the library at **734-847-6747**. Hours for curbside pickup will be Monday – Thursday 11am – 7pm and Friday – Saturday 10am – 4pm.
- We are able to provide copy/scan/fax/print services via curbside operations. Visit our website or call the library for more information on this service.
- Meeting rooms remain unavailable for the foreseeable future.
- We will **NOT** be accepting any donations of materials for several months. Thank you for understanding!
- Students will not be able to use the library after school as a place to hang out with friends. Each visitor must make an appointment and their time will be limited to 30 minutes. Call us at **734-847-6747** for more information. ■

A Note From Your Ordinance Department

Fall is upon us and the crisp autumn air soon will be here. To help keep the air breathable, we do have a burn ordinance in place and some regulations that pertain to it. Please keep in mind the following if you are burning:

- Campfires 3'x3' in a burn pit or outdoor fireplace is allowed from 3pm to midnight. You may only burn clean wood.
- Burning leaves and brush is allowed in October and November without a burn permit during the permitted times of Friday 2 pm - 6 pm and Saturday and Sunday 8 am - 6 pm.
- Fall is a popular time for bonfires. Bonfires cannot be any larger than 8'x8' and you will need to acquire a bonfire permit. You can obtain a burn permit through our drive thru window on the south side of the Township Hall.

If you have any questions on burning please call **734-224-7350** or **734-224-7341**. ■

The Green Initiative Committee

By: Joyce Blanton, Cathy Beville, Patricia Bull, Kenneth Schumacher & Diane Smith

A Year To Remember.....What a year this has been so far! Limited contact with other human beings has been the unfortunate norm for most of us. But just getting outside seems to be a balm for our spirits. Walking or biking our neighborhoods and area parks, gardening or playing outdoor games helps fill a void quite unlike anything else.

Do bird songs seem to be particularly melodious this year, or are we just paying more attention? Have you noticed that a mild breeze can feel like a silk scarf caressing our faces and a bubbling stream sounds so-- *wet?* Too often we take the natural world for granted. **"Tree hugging"** is usually a derogatory term. But avoiding embracing a good friend when we meet (*for the sake of their health as well as our own*) or even shaking their hands may move some of us to think that a good hug with a favorite tree might be in order.

Nature will prevail without us but we need nature, now more than ever. Let us not forget this as, hopefully, life eventually returns to some semblance of normal. Think about reducing waste that pollutes the environment. Fall is generally a good time to plant, so think about planting a tree, or two or three, to help cleanse and restore oxygen to the air we breathe, not to mention something to hug when other options fail. Think about leaving our natural world just a bit better than we found it. ■

ELECTION NEWS

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 a computer, is to go to our website, www.bedfordmi.org. This site will connect you with the state's website (Michigan.gov/vote) which will give you election information and tell you if you're registered to vote or where your precinct location is. If you do not have access to the web, just call my office, **734-224-7320**. Either I or one of my staff will be happy to assist you. If you find that you are not registered to vote and wish to vote in the **November 3, 2020 Presidential Election** (and any future elections), Michigan Election Law requires you to do so at least 15 days before the election at a Secretary of State office, online, or by mail which means you would have to do so by October 19, 2020. Or if you wish to register after this date, you may only do so by appearing in person at my office. Voters registering after this date must also prove their residency by showing their current and valid Michigan issued driver's license or state ID with their correct address. If you do not have an ID with your current address, you may appear in person before the clerk with a copy of a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement, or a government document which lists your name and address and another form of picture ID.



ABSENTEE VOTERS

With the upcoming General Election in November, I would like to remind our permanent absentee voters to sign your applications and return them to my office, if you haven't already done so. Please note there are other organizations, that in the interest of making sure everyone votes, have also begun mailing out applications to our voters, many who have already returned applications. If you are not sure if you have returned your application, or if you would like to be added to our permanent absentee voter list, please call my office, **734-224-7320** and we will add you to our list of permanent absentee voters. Once you are on this list, for each scheduled election, you will be automatically sent an absentee ballot application form that must be signed and returned in order to receive the ballot. When receipting in the absentee applications and ballots, your signature is verified to confirm that it is indeed the voter requesting or returning a ballot. If your signature does not match what we have on file you can expect to receive a letter or an email requesting you to verify

your signature. Please respond back promptly to these letters so that your absentee application or ballot can be receipted in.

ELECTION INSPECTORS

I would like to thank all of our election inspectors who worked the August 4, 2020 Primary Election. They attended training classes, arrived on time and worked the long hours of Election Day, without complaint. Our inspectors do an outstanding job in performing the many election duties assigned them, especially when you consider that Bedford Township is the largest voting bloc in Monroe County, with the most precincts (14). While the task seems overwhelming, our inspectors/chairmen do an amazing job. We are always looking for election inspectors. If you are interested in becoming one, please contact my office. Training will be provided and you will be compensated for your time.

AUGUST 4, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

The August Primary Election is over, with voter turnout in Bedford at 33%, which was higher than the 2016 Primary Election which saw a 25% turnout. The County Canvassing Board finished their canvass back in August and the official local election results are posted on our website, www.bedfordmi.org. There isn't enough space in the newsletter to adequately report this information.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The **November 3, 2020 Presidential Election** will allow voters to elect a **President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, a State Representative, all County and Local Officials, College Trustees, and Local School Boards of Education**, along with several proposals. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020.**

THANKS TO OUR PRECINCT LOCATION SITES

I would also like to thank **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, the Assembly of Christian Church, Northwest Christian Church, the Compelled Church, Shelton Park Church of God, and the Bedford Library** for their willingness to allow us to use their facilities as polling locations on Election Day. It was an unusual election, especially dealing with the pandemic protocols. We appreciate the willingness of our precinct sites to allow us to provide a convenient location for our residents to vote. ■

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

Reflecting back over the last few years and learning to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, I am brought to reflect on how thoughtful individuals are about pitching in and working as a team to get the job done. Many may not know this, but while the stay-at home order was in place your Township hall employees were still working behind the scenes to keep services to the public running smoothly. While many of our employees worked remotely from home, a team made up of myself, the deputy clerk and the deputy treasurer came to the office regularly to attend to necessary business.

CIP PLAN - I look at individuals like **Dennis Jenkins** who over the years has worked on developing a Capital Improvement Plan to take to the Township Board for approval. He, along with a team of dedicated individuals including **Nancy Tienvieri, Ron Fritz, Barry Buschmann, Dennis Kolar, Mike Keane, Paul Francis** and myself who put in countless hours to formulate and bring to fruition a Capital Improvement Plan to help our township set aside funds and plan for repairs and expenses that will arise in the future. This will help not only our current Board but also those that precede us.

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

Praise and gratitude also must be extended towards our dedicated Treasurer's Department team of **Krista Jandasek,**

Amy Hogberg and **Nicole Knapp**, who not only handle their daily responsibilities but have taken on the additional duties of fielding all residents who come through the drive-up window for all of the departments in our building. Doing business solely through the drive-up window has created a steady and sometimes almost constant flow of business for their department as they assist residents in need of service. In the time leading up to the Primary Election, chances are it was their smiling faces that greeted you as you dropped off an application or ballot.

MEDIA PRESENCE - If you have viewed a Township Board meeting, Town Hall meeting, BZA meeting, Planning meeting or other township videos recently, you have the Communications Committee and **George Welling** to thank. They were instrumental in seeing the need to get the meetings out to the public in a format that all of our residents would be able to view. Meetings now are available for viewing not only on the Bedford cable channel, but also through our YouTube channel. Kudos should be extended even further to Mr. Welling and my fellow board members as COVID-19 and the governor's executive orders made it impossible for our board to meet in person. Everyone had to learn how to conduct meetings virtually and Mr. Welling made it possible for us to navigate through this new territory and still keep our meetings broadcast to the public.

ELECTION INSPECTORS - The **August 4, 2020 Primary** saw many new challenges for our election inspectors. Many braved long hours of wearing a mask, constant sanitizing, and new ID scanning equipment all in the interest of making our elections safe to the public. They accepted all these changes with positive energy and without complaint. Our AV counting board deserves praise as well, this election saw the highest number of absentee ballots that any Bedford Township election has ever seen. Over 5,000 absentee ballots were receipted into our office. This provided for an extremely long day for the 17 men and women sequestered at Township Hall and tasked with the job of making sure every ballot was counted. Hopefully all of them will be caught back up on their missed sleep in time for November's election.

I would also like to recognize and thank both **Nancy Gin, Angie Dec** and volunteers, **Daisy** and **Marilyn**. They have helped me tremendously through all the changes brought on by the pandemic. Many long days were put in after 5pm, to ensure the election ran smoothly and I can honestly say without them this election with all its obstacles and overwhelming absentee ballot requests would not have been the success it was.

There are countless other residents who give of their time throughout this township to make it a community we can all be proud to live in. If you were not mentioned in this article please know you are not overlooked and you are appreciated. Many hands make light the work and no place is this more evident than in Bedford Township. ■

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Clerk



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Douglas Steinman, Bedford Township Fire Inspector

As we approach fall and the winter months, the Bedford Township Fire Department would like to take time to pass along some important information on fire safety and ways to keep your family safe. Each year, the second week of October is designated as Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since its inception and annually selects the theme each year. The 2020 theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen".

The members of the Bedford Township Fire Department are extremely busy out in the community educating our citizens of all ages on fire safety. Some of the many events during this week are, stops at all of our schools (*Douglas Road, Jackman Road, and Monroe Road*), New Bedford Academy, State Line Christian Schools, including church youth groups, and preschoolers. We normally reach and educate more than 5000 students. Life safety packets are prepared and distributed to these students to work on as homework with their parents. Hosting our annual Fire Prevention/Education Open House, Pancake breakfast at Fire Station Two, and our annual fire truck coloring contest have become a highlight of our community to help educate everyone on fire safety/prevention. Covid-19 may have sidelined many of these annual events this year, we are committed to continuing the focus of educating our community. We will leave you with the following fire safety tips:

- Install smoke alarm. On every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms. Testing at least once a month and replace batteries once a year or when the alarm "chirps" to tell you the battery is low. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
- Have a home fire escape plan. Make a home escape plan and practice it a least twice a year.
- Keep matches and lighter out of reach. Keep matches and lighter high, out of reach of children.
- Watch your cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Be careful when using candles. Keep candles at least one foot from anything that can burn. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Fire extinguishers. Placement throughout the home are kitchen, laundry room, and garage.
- Carbon Monoxide. Install at least one battery-powered CO alarm or AC-powered unit with battery backup on each level of your home and near sleeping areas.
- We are proud to serve each and everyone of you. Please take care and be safe. ■

Saying Farewell... Staying United!

By: Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

Greetings to all my Bedford family! As we move into Autumn I am reminded that this time of year has always been a very active and busy time for me and my family, as well as most of this community. However, this "unique" year will be somewhat different considering the restraints we are experiencing due to the pandemic. Life is about change and whether we like it or not it is inevitable. Bedford has always been a strong community, and we will meet this challenge as we have previous ones – as a united force. We will unite and move forward in this challenge for our children, our elderly, our businesses, and on every occasion to band together to support one another.



I will be experiencing a big change in my life come November. I am leaving public service behind and moving on to new adventures. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt farewell to my fellow comrades in Bedford Township and Monroe County. I have loved and happily served these citizens for nearly 30 years. Public service has been one of the major joys of my life. The Bedford community has been very warm and supportive to our family. My husband and I came here right out of college and he taught in the Bedford Public Schools for 40 years; our children grew up here and graduated from Bedford High School. We have enjoyed the small town atmosphere, the Friday night football games and other events that united the community. Bedford citizens came together at many other events organized by the Bedford Business Association, Park Board, Library, and local churches to name a few. Our gathering in groups may be put on hold for a time, but I believe we will come back strong one day. Our family spent our "growing up" years here in Bedford, and it has been a fantastic experience.

I will remember with endearment the many people like Bev Hammerstrom, Pearl Albert-Green, and Sherry Meyer who served this community with integrity, and taught me the meaning of public service. We did not always agree which is truly a good thing in government, because we came to the best results by discussion and sharing different ideas. In this way we realized we alone do not have all the answers all the time. There is wisdom in the experiences of others, and I learned from these women that it is not always good to "upset the apple cart" and make changes for change sake. Unity is reached many times by meeting in the middle.

The current Bedford Township Board is an excellent example of a diverse Board with new and fresh ideas. I am confident Bedford government will move on very nicely without me. No one is indispensable. God has created time, and we all have a purpose in our time. I have very much appreciated what He has called me to do in my specific time. I have appreciated each one of you – both those who supported me and those who disagreed with me. We can learn a lot from others if we just take the time to listen.

As I said, I learned as much from my opponents as I did from my allies. Stay strong Bedford! Continue to unite because it is a true statement that says, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". I will continue to keep Bedford Township in my prayers. ■

A Message To A New Trustee!

By: TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

In November 2016 **YOU** elected me to be **YOUR** voice on our township board. Since that time, it has been an incredible honor to represent you and be your voice. I love being **YOUR** Trustee as much as I loved being a police officer as I get to stand in the gap between good decisions and bad ones. I get to be a voice for those that feel like they do not have one. And I take that service seriously and respectfully.



That said, I am about to conclude my four years as **YOUR** Trustee, and I have thought about what I would tell new Trustees from a perspective of having had experience in the job. So here it goes.

First, never forget three fundamental words... **WE THE PEOPLE!** As a Trustee it will be your distinct privilege to represent your neighbors on matters that will affect the composition of this community and the costs to live here. As one of your neighbors that you will be representing, I would ask you to really consider those two things as you make decisions. Remember it is our job as Trustees to shape our community so that it thrives and succeeds. However, we also must remember that we are a nation, state, and community of individual rights. People matter and per our constitution, people come first.

Second, do not get caught up in statistics and polls. Remember the actual names and faces of your neighbors. As you make decisions, think about how it will affect them. Connect your decisions to the faces of those you represent. **YOUR** decisions will be more thoughtful, more diligent, and likely more beneficial for most.

Third, please do your homework. There is nothing worse than having an issue come up on an agenda to only find that some of the board members are ready to discuss it and some have not really driven very deep into the matter. Our community, our neighbors, and your fellow board members deserve better than that. Please be sure you are always ready to engage in the topics on the agenda.

Fourth, be willing and mature enough to say, "I don't know." No one expects any of you to have all the answers. In fact, many find it refreshing when you simply say I don't now, and I will find out. It makes you human, it makes you honest, and it will keep you grounded.

Fifth, listen more than you talk. Traditionally in my experience, the smartest people are rarely the loudest and most often they are the quietest. There is a ton of information to be learned and used when you listen. Conversely, when you speak, others will listen intently.

Finally, leadership is about service above self. Take your role as a leader seriously. Realize you are a Trustee 24/7/365. Everything you do, everything you say, and everywhere you go will reflect on our township. See it as an honor to carry that responsibility and be mindful of what it entails.

As a Trustee you will be an ambassador for our community. You get to decide how active or inactive you will be. I encourage you to be as active as possible. Go to events, talk with neighbors, and listen to those that disagree with you. Great ideas do not get beat down by being challenged. But often, they are made stronger while being discussed.

Lastly, I cannot thank my neighbors enough for having allowed me to represent them over the last several years. It has been an honor to be **YOUR** voice. I am positive that I have not made all of you happy with all of my decisions, but I hope that even in our differences you have seen a person who gives character and integrity to our township board. A person that takes their responsibilities seriously and respects the office and our community. While I will no longer be **YOUR** Trustee, I look forward to continued service on **YOUR** behalf. ■

Bedford Park Board News

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

Even though summer is winding down our parks are always open; no matter what the season. We have had great attendance at all of our locations during the warm weather and hope this continues as fall approaches.

Are you looking for a place to skateboard or rollerblade? Come check out the newly renovated skate park at **Parmelee Park**. Improvements have just been completed and after a brief hiatus the park is back open to the public.

If birding is your hobby you may want to grab your binoculars and head out to **Ansted Park**. According to the **MAEAP Technician, Taylor Myatt** of the **Monroe Conservation District**, local birders have identified a **Henslow's Sparrow** there. This sparrow is identified as a **state endangered species** by the **Michigan Department of National Resources** due to habitat decline. This is a real treat to have this sparrow residing here in Bedford Township.



Henslow's Sparrow

Are you missing out on live baseball games? 3B baseball is back in action at **White** and **Samaria Parks**. Stop by to watch a game. If pickleball or tennis are more to your liking, consider picking up a game while you are at White Park.

Get a jump start on a New Year's resolution and consider using our trails at **Ansted Park, Wheeler Preserve, Indian Creek Park** or **White Park** for walking or jogging.

In the next couple months, you will also see our township maintenance department in the parks. We are in the process of upgrading playscape equipment at all of the parks. Please be patient as we accomplish this.

Whatever you decide, get out and get moving. ■

A Message From The Bedford Township Media Director

Attention Realtors.....

An invitation to "WHERE MICHIGAN BEGINS". There is a video on **Bedford's YouTube Channel**. It is a promotional video regarding our town.



We think it is a tool for realtors to show off Bedford to possible buyers not familiar with our township. We want to attract new business and this video speaks to the advantages of operating a business here as well as letting new employees realize how wonderful it is to make Bedford their home.

Please feel free to watch "your" video and remind yourself of the rich community we live in. To view this video go to: www.bedfordmi.org and look for the "WHERE MICHIGAN BEGINS" link. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2020-2021 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 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 box the Wednesday after the meeting at 9:00 A.M. and the following Thursday at 7:00 P.M.