



THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XIX • Issue 4 • Holiday 2018

In This Issue

Boards and Commissions	1
Website/YouTube Information	1
Library News	2
Bedford Fire Department Update	2
Election News	2
Bedford Ordinance Department	2
From The Supervisor's Desk	3
Treasurer's Department Update	3
We're At Your Service	4
Attention...Attention...Attention: Special Assessment District	4
Park Board News	4
I Am Thankful And I Hope You are Too!	4
2018-2019 Schedule of Meetings	4

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 AM - 5 PM
Monday - Friday

Paul Pirrone Supervisor
 Trudy L. Hershberger Clerk
 Paul R. Francis Treasurer
 TC Clements Trustee
 Craig Montri Trustee
 Rick Steiner Trustee
 Nancy Tienivieri 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 Hershberger, Clerk
 thershberger@bedfordmi.org
Treasurer's Department..... 7342
 Paul R. Francis, Treasurer
 pfrancis@bedfordmi.org
Finance Department.....7325
 David Manning, Finance Director
 dmanning@bedfordmi.org
Planning Department.....7331
 Karen Kincaid, Planning Administrator
 kkincaid@bedfordmi.org
Building Department..... 7330
 Dennis Kolar, Building Official
 dkolar@bedfordmi.org
Assessing Department.....7353
 Alan Matlow, Lead Assessor
 amatlow@bedfordmi.org
Ordinance Department..... 7350
 Damon Cecil, Supervisor
 dcecil@bedfordmi.org
Trustee's Office.....
 TC Clements
 tclements@bedfordmi.org
 Craig Montri
 cmontri@bedfordmi.org
 Rick Steiner
 rsteiner@bedfordmi.org
 Nancy Tienivieri
 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
 Monroe County Non-Emergency
 (734) 243-7070
 (Bedford Substation)
 Detective/Sergeant..... 7315
 Detective..... 7316
 Deputy..... 7318

Township Offices Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays:

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

Graphic and Printing services provided by Bedford Township residents

Happy Holidays From The Bedford Township Board And Staff



Boards & Commissions... Be The Change You Seek!

By: The Bedford Township Clerk Department

With the year drawing to a close many of the Township Boards and Commissions will be renewing and/or looking for members. Are you happy with the current state of affairs in the Township? Have you ever thought of becoming involved in the Township but didn't know where? Have you felt that your knowledge and expertise could be of a benefit to your community?

There are currently over fourteen boards and commissions serving the Township, could one of them be waiting for you? Change and innovations can start with you and your expertise. Some of these committees meet only once a month, some even less than that. Still on the fence? Maybe you just need more information on what they are about:

- **Beautification Committee** - Designs plans to beautify the township with plants, trees and flowers. Cares for the landscape and planting of flowers on township property. Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- **Board of Review** - Hears assessment complaints of landowners and make a determination as to whether the assessment is appropriate. Meets annually for several days in March, July and December.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** - Hears and renders decisions on appeals of determinations of ordinance enforcement and codes. Grants variances to ordinances. Meets 1st Monday of the month.
- **Communications/Media Commission** - Explores and standardizes communication methods throughout the community. Meets 2nd Monday of the month.
- **Compensation Commission** - Sets the compensation of elected officials. Meets in January of odd numbered years.
- **Construction Board of Appeals** - Consists of members with experience and training in the building trades to hear appeals concerning the Building Department regarding the enforcement of the State Construction Code. Meets on as needed basis.

- **Downtown Development Authority** - Makes plans for the development of the Sterns/Secor business district. Meets 2nd Friday of the month.
- **Fire Department Advisory Board** - Provides citizen input, advice and assistance to the Fire Chief in areas including finance, policy, procedures and planning for efficient and cost-effective fire prevention services, public safety, emergency medical services, rescue operations, risk reduction services, and other areas as necessary. Meets the 3rd Thursday of every other month.
- **Grants & Loan Committee** - Hears appeals for grant/loan money for remodeling renovating for low income residents. Meets on as needed basis.
- **Grant Writing Committee** - To seek various types of grant opportunities for the township and work with potential entities to provide resources or funding for grant opportunities. Meets on a as needed basis.
- **Housing Commission** - Oversees the Ivor Lindsey Senior Citizen Housing and has the authority to purchase, acquire, construct, maintain, operate, improve and/or repair public housing facilities. Meets the 3rd. Wednesday of each month.
- **Lewis Avenue Redevelopment** - Make plans for the development of the Lewis Avenue business corridor. Meets 1st Monday of the month.
- **Library Advisory Board** - Works with the county library system to improve the local library and manage the Bedford Branch's budget. Meets 4th Monday of each month.
- **Planning Commission** - Makes and adopts a plan for the township's land use development. Reviews site plans for new development. Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Interested individuals should stop by the Clerk's Department for an application to be considered for any of these boards or commissions. ■

Videos on Bedford Website: www.bedfordmi.org

You can access the videos of the Township Board Meetings on the website. On the left side of the home page under Quick Links, "click" on Video of Bedford Township Board Meetings, then "click" on the date you want to view.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel and never miss the Township Board Meeting! You can also watch our Townhall meetings, informational videos and many other interesting meetings. To subscribe, visit our website at www.Bedfordmi.org and click on the link on the front page.



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

Thank you to our community for supporting the millage for the library building in the November 6 election! **The Library Advisory Board**, on behalf of Bedford Township, will work diligently to use the money wisely to improve the safety, accessibility, and appearance of your library, as well as reduce the cost of operation. Keep in mind the funds generated by the .25 mill levy will not be used for staff, materials, or technology, as those items are funded by the Monroe County Library System. The first improvements to be addressed with money this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2019) will be:

- HVAC and Lighting controls - reduce costs, reduce wear and tear on equipment, and improve comfort for library users
- Convert pendant lighting to LED - further reduce costs
- Repair or replace broken and cracked floor tiles - improve safety

Watch future Township Updates for current information on how the Library Advisory Board is being responsive and responsible with township money while improving your library.

Your community library has some great family programs that allow parents to get out and do something fun (and free!) with their children. LEGO Freeplay happens on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM. We provide the LEGO. You provide the imagination! (Registration is not required.) Family Storytime is held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. This is an opportunity for families to read, dance, and play together as a family. (Registration is requested) STEAM on Tuesdays is all about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and is geared toward families with elementary school-aged kids. Join us for fun with experimenting, coding, building, painting, and more on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM. (Registration is requested.) Check the calendar for details at <http://mymcls.com>.

Did you know that your library is also out and about in your community? Many middle school and high school classes visit the library regularly to learn how to use the library and its services. Your library also goes into classrooms to show students and teachers online resources. The library partners with the new Veteran's Center to help provide computer classes and other help to local veterans. The library visits many senior stops such as the Bedford Senior Center and Aspen Grove as well as other locations to provide programs and services. Books on Tap meets at AJ Doolittle's the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM to discuss current books and what we've been reading in a laid back atmosphere.

Do you have a service or a group interested in learning more about the library? The library in your community will come to you!

Another exciting way your library will be in your community is with our coming soon new bookmobile! We are currently looking for donations to make this a reality. If you are interested in sponsoring a book for our bookmobile, or making a donation to help get us on the road, please stop in your library for a donation form or visit <https://monroe.lib.mi.us/bookmobile> for more information.

For more information contact your **Bedford Branch Library** at 734.847.6747 or via our website at <http://mymcls.com>. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Happy Holidays!

It has been another busy year for the department as we head toward 2019. We are averaging over 7.5 calls each day so far and are projected to respond to over 2,750 calls for service in 2018.

To help address the ever-increasing call volume in our community, we have hired three full-time **Firefighter/Paramedics** through a federal grant program. This allows us to have one **Firefighter/Paramedic** staffing the station 24 hours each day and has led to improved response times throughout the township.

The three full-time **Firefighter/Paramedics** and one full-time **Firefighter/EMT** supplement our paid-on-call membership. We currently have 37 fully-trained paid-on-call members and 14 probationary members in training. With such a large group of probationary members, you may notice increased training activity



Chief Adam Massingill
Photo Source: Toledo Blade

either at the stations or the training tower behind the township hall. Senior department members will spend considerable time this winter developing our new talent so that we are well prepared to respond in times of need.

While we have increased our membership significantly this past year, we continue to look for community-oriented men and women interested in joining the fire department as a paid-on-call member. This spring we will begin interviewing candidates for membership. All community members interested in participating are encouraged to contact the station or township hall for an application.

We also have a vibrant **Fire Explorer Program** through the **Boy Scouts of America** that allows young adults between the ages of 14-18 to learn about careers in firefighting and emergency medical service by training with and working alongside firefighters at our stations. Members of our **Fire Exploring Post** may also receive sponsorship through the department to obtain **State of Michigan Firefighter Certification** as well as become a **Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**. For more information on this program, contact the fire station.

Have a great winter everyone and remember, warmer weather is right around the corner! ■

The 2018 election year is over and the voting equipment has been put away until 2020. Bedford Township will not have any elections in 2019 unless the schools (Bedford, Erie-Mason or Ida) schedule a special election, or the township, county or state decide to do so. It has been a long year, not only for my department, but for all residents of Bedford Township who have had to listen to political ads, view political signs, and put up with political literature filling their mailbox for so many months.

We had two elections this year, the first being the August Primary election, in which the turnout was 24%, and then the General Election, which had a larger than usual turnout for a mid-term election at 56%.

Locally, the voters of Bedford supported three Proposals: **The Fire Protection Proposal** in August, the **Bedford Library Proposal** in November, and the **Bedford Public School Building Improvements Millage** also in November. In addition, **Craig Montri** was voted in to fill the vacant Trustee position.

I would like to commend my staff and election workers for the great job they did in both of these elections. Many of our election inspectors were new this year, and

Election News

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



both the new and the more experienced workers handled it all, with smiling faces. Thank you so much.

I wish to thank **Shelton Park Church of God, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Christ the King Church, Compelled Church, the Assembly of Christian Church, the United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Northwest Christian Church, and the Bedford Library** for allowing us to use their facility as a precinct location from 6:00 am until after the polls close, at no cost to the township. You do a great service for our community.

In closing, I also wish to thank all of our voters for their patience as they waited in line to vote, especially in the November election. ■

The Bedford Township Ordinance Department

By: Damon Cecil Ordinance Supervisor

“Save Our Seniors”

“**Save Our Seniors**” is a new program designed to help senior citizens with a health and/or debilitating issue, when they receive a written complaint about blight or snow removal from our Ordinance Department. If a senior citizen receives a written letter of complaint from the **Bedford Ordinance Department**, they should contact our office as soon as possible, a member of the Ordinance Department will then set up a meeting in person with you to determine if you meet the requirements of the program. Upon meeting the requirements, our citizen volunteers are then contacted and will work with you to get the matter resolved.

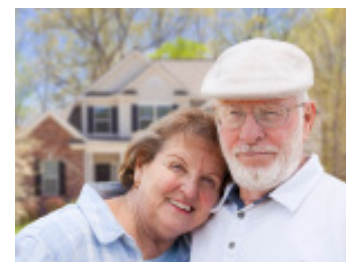
With winter approaching, snow and ice removal from sidewalks in front of homes can sometimes be a problem. **Ordinance #52** requires all property and/or business owners to remove any accumulating snow or ice within 24 hours after the snowfall occurs. If you are a senior citizen, and again get a notice from the Ordinance Department regarding snow removal on a sidewalk and you are unable to take care of the task let us know right away. If you do not contact our office, we will assume you are able to take care of the matter and are simply not willing to comply. This will result in our



contracted service taking care of the sidewalks and you will be billed on your tax bill.

“Snowbird House Checks”

“**Snowbird House Checks**” is a program launched last year for residents who plan to be out of town for an extended amount of time, two weeks or more, during the months of November through March. An officer from our department will make periodic, exterior checks of your residence while you are gone, then upon your return you would simply call our department to remove you from our list. This program **IS NOT** a replacement for our current law enforcement, and should any type of criminal activity be discovered during an inspection, law enforcement is notified, along with an emergency contact and the homeowner. For matters not of a criminal nature, the homeowner and their emergency contact will be notified. Interested residents should stop by the **Ordinance Department** at township hall and fill out the paperwork to be placed on our house check list, there is **NO** fee. If you have questions, contact **Damon Cecil** at 734.224.7350, and thank you Bedford residents for all your support. ■





From The
Supervisor's Desk
By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor

Residential Safety Tips

As with any community we may always have some element of crime. However, there are things that we can do as residents to help prevent crime in Bedford Township. The **Monroe County Sheriff's Department** has put together crime prevention and safety tips for us to use. The **SNAP Program** (*Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program*) that can be utilized to minimize the risk of becoming a victim of a theft. Theft from your home, business, or vehicle can leave you feeling vulnerable and create both financial hardship and an emotional toll in the loss of irreplaceable items, such as family heirlooms.

What To Look For

- Parked occupied vehicles that you do not recognize or appear out of place.
- Vehicles with obstructed or out of state license plates.
- Vehicles continually driving around the area with no apparent destination.
- Persons walking around the sides or back of your house, or knocking and asking questions to ascertain if anyone is home.
- Persons acting out of character, such as running without work-out clothes.

What To Do Next

- Write down the vehicle license plate number and state, if possible.
- Take a photo of the car and/or subject with your cell phone or camera.
- Try to record as much detail about the vehicle and subject as possible, such as make, model, color, number of doors, race gender, height, weight, hair color, and clothing description.
- **DO NOT** put yourself in jeopardy to collect this information. Record it from a safe location.
- Report the incident as soon as possible.

How Do I Make A Report?

- If you believe you are witnessing a crime in progress, immediately **call 911**.
- If you have discovered the crime after the fact, or the suspect(s) have left, call **Monroe County Central Dispatch** at **734.243.7070**.
- If you observed something that you think is suspicious, but not a crime, consider sending an email to: **TellTheSheriff@MonroeMI.org**.
- Keep in mind that a perpetrator may be casing the area to look for potential targets hours or days before an actual crime occurs.

What Can I Do To Minimize My Risk of Being A Victim?

- Establish a rapport with your neighbors and look out for each other. Most home thefts occur during the day while you are at work or school.

- Make it appear like someone is home. Park unused vehicles in the drive, keep a light or TV on.
- Always lock your vehicles.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended.
- Never leave the keys to your vehicle inside the vehicle when it is unattended.
- Never leave valuables including bags, money, or electronics in a vehicle where it can be viewed by persons walking by.
- Consider a large gun safe for storing firearms and valuables at your home or business. The larger and heavier the safe, the more difficult it is for a thief to enter the safe or remove your valuables from your home.
- Stop mail and paper delivery when going on vacation.
- Keep an up-to-date and detailed list of all valuables in your home including Make, Model, and Color, Serial Numbers, unique identifying features, such as nicks, dents, or other damage that occurred after purchase. Keep receipts of purchases.
- Never answer questions to unsolicited people at your door or on the phone about who is home, or when someone might be returning.
- Close your garage door when you are not in it.



Snow Bird Program

- **From November to March** the **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** will check on your home.
- Phone the **Ordinance Department** at **734.224.7350**, or visit their office at **Bedford Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road** to register your property.

Bedford Township Watch

Please be aware that you may see vehicles with flashing lights and signs identifying themselves as the Bedford Township Watch driving around the township. This is a group of volunteers that are patrolling the neighborhoods in Bedford Township. If they see something suspicious they will report it to the **Monroe County Sheriff's Department**. If you would like to join the program or need information please contact the **Bedford Veterans Center** at **734.224.7032**. ■



Tax Department Alert!

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



2018 WINTER TAX BILLS

The **2018 Winter tax bills** were mailed on or before **December 1, 2018**, and can be paid any time between **December 1, 2018** and **February 14, 2019** without late penalty or interest being assessed.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING WHEN PAYING YOUR TAX BILLS:

- Please make your check payable to the **Bedford Township Treasurer** for the exact amount of your tax bill only. We cannot accept overpayments and carry over amounts to future tax bills.
- Please **DO NOT** combine tax payments with sewer payments on one check. Each account is separate, and must be paid by a separate check.
- Please make certain that your check is dated and signed, and that the written amount and the numerical amount are identical.
- We **DO** accept partial payments on tax bills between December 1, 2018 and February 14, 2019. Interest on the unpaid balance must be added after February 14, 2019.
- If you have refinanced your home mortgage or paid off your mortgage in the last year, please call our office. Many times the banks or mortgage companies do not let us know that you have an escrow account for payment of your property taxes.
- We offer Direct Debit or ACH payment as an optional method for payment of your taxes. Authorization forms are available in the Treasurer's Department or online at **www.bedfordmi.org**.
- For your convenience, you may pay your tax bills by mail (using the envelope provided), or in person at the **Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI** (*convenient drive-up window, drop box or inside service counter*), the **Lambertville Branch office of Fifth Third Bank**, or any **Branch office of Monroe Bank & Trust in Monroe County**.
- Tax bills can also be paid by debit card or credit card (*a 3% user fee is charged*). We are authorized to accept **VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, and AMEX** cards.
- If your 2018 summer tax bill is not yet paid, there will be interest and penalty assessed. Please visit our website or call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department**

at **734.224.7342** for the current balance due.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DEFER PAYMENT OF YOUR 2018 WINTER HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAXES UNTIL APRIL 30, 2019 - IF:

- You are a senior citizen (*age 62 or older*).
- You are an eligible veteran, eligible service person, eligible widow/widower, paraplegic, quadriplegic, hemiplegic, totally and permanently disabled or blind.
- Your total 2018 household income (taxable and nontaxable) is \$50,000 or less.
- The taxable value of your homestead does not exceed \$135,000.

In order to qualify for deferred payment of 2018 Winter property taxes, you must file **2018 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit form MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2** with the State of Michigan, and provide the Bedford Township Treasurer's office with a copy on or before February 14, 2019. **WITHOUT A COPY OF THESE FORMS, THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT GRANT DEFERRED PAYMENT.** If you have any questions regarding deferring payment of your 2017 Winter tax bill, please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342**.

R.S.V.P. VOLUNTEER HELP AVAILABLE

R.S.V.P. VOLUNTEER HELP WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS in preparing these tax forms at the Bedford Township Government Center (*Conference Room C*) on Monday (*February 4*), Tuesday (*February 5*) and Wednesday (*February 6*) 2019 between the hours of 9:00am - 4:00pm (*BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - PLEASE*). Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department at (734) 224-7342 to arrange an appointment. Walk-ins will be served on the first come, first served basis between scheduled appointments if time permits. Please bring proof (*Forms W-2, 1099, etc.*) of all 2018 income such as wages, social security, IRA's, pensions, interest, dividends, and any other income you may have received in 2018, plus medical health, dental and vision insurance premiums paid in 2018. You may also qualify for a home heating tax credit, so bring your home heating bill amounts for the period 11/01/17 - 10/31/18 (*you may need to contact Michigan Gas for these amounts*). ■

We're At Your Service

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



Periodically, it's good to remind ourselves as well as all township residents that the employees at Bedford Township Hall work for you. That's right, we work for you. Our goal is to provide excellent customer service to everyone we greet at the counters or speak with over the telephone. That doesn't always mean we can give you an answer that you're happy with, it simply means we will try our best to give you the correct answer or transfer you to the person or department that can help you. We will strive to give you the best service in the quickest time possible, with a smile.

Lately, I've heard a lot of people in the community talk about things they have read on the internet. I tend to take a deep breath and ask "Did you call or ask questions to confirm what you heard or read was accurate?" Most of the time the answer I get is no, and this is how the rumor mill gets started. The problem is more and more people are believing what they read instead of gathering the facts or investigating the truth. Sometimes, not only do they believe what is not true, but they go on to spread more untruths to others on social media. There is a quote by Pauline Baynes "Believe what you like, but don't believe everything you read without questioning it." Which brings me back full circle, we are at your service. Call the township and ask questions. If you read something on social media get the facts, investigate the issue(s) and make some phone calls that can confirm or deny the information before passing it on to others. Maybe this way less misinformation and more good information will be shared in the community.

When I was elected clerk in November of 2012, one of my goals was to be as accessible as possible to the residents of Bedford Township and to make sure that my department provides even better customer service than we have in the past. That is why I prefer to have my desk out in our general office area instead of using a private office. If you have any questions or concerns that I can help with, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you're unable to come into the township hall to speak with me, call my department at **734.224.7320** or email me at thershberger@bedfordmi.org. If you do call, and I am unavailable at the time, you can be assured I will be in contact with you as soon as I can after receiving your message. ■

I Am Thankful And I Hope You Are Too!

By TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

As **YOUR** Trustee, I wanted to share with you some of the things I am thankful for as we head into the holiday season, and as we wrap up the end of this calendar year.

First off, I am thankful that I represent **YOU**, my neighbors. Bedford and Monroe County are an amazing place to live, work and raise a family. Sometimes, in the hustle and bustle of our fast-paced lives, we lose sight of how amazing our home is. We have a great supportive community where neighbors help one another, look out for one another and appreciate what we have here. Our schools are a place where our children have great instructors and staff. Not only do these teachers and employees care about educating our kids, but they play very active roles in the community. As a PTO parent at MRE, I can tell you first-hand how amazing it is to see parents, teachers, and school administrators work together to augment needs during the school year.



Second, I am largely thankful for the choices our community has made and the direction we are collectively headed. As **YOUR** Trustee, I remain focused on continued road improvements, keeping our township budget (*taxes on you*) as low as possible, and improving/increasing services, all while maximizing our resources to the greatest extent.

Third, I am thankful for the continued support and protection afforded to us by the men and women of our emergency services. This year, we partnered with the Bedford Schools and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to place a second full-time officer on our school campuses to further protect our kids. We have an amazing fire department that provides much unseen support and care to our residents. They are a vital resource that I am proud of as not only do we all benefit from their quality of care, but from the quality of the organization as role models and community participants.

We don't often think about it a lot here in Bedford as we are not close to a large military base but I'm also incredibly grateful for our men and women of the Armed Forces. Without question, we enjoy a peace in our daily lives as others work tirelessly to defend our nation, state, county and community. The sacrifice made by our warriors and their families cannot be measured and we cannot say thank you enough.

Lastly, I am thankful that we live in a country where freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not something we dream about: It's promised! I try not to let a day pass that I don't pause to remember my blessings. As a travel agent I have seen many countries that do not share the same quality of life we do. I also have experienced the differences between our country and others. I have seen first hand the richness of our country versus the poverty of others. I am proud that we have a country where hard work, discipline, and relentless passion provides a path to opportunity for those that choose it.

I hope you each have a very Merry Christmas and Holiday Season. I continue to work hard for you and consider myself blessed to be **YOUR** Trustee. ■

Bedford Park Board News

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

The winter months may be upon us, but that doesn't mean the parks are taking a hiatus for the season. Members of the Park Board are already busy planning for the 2019 season. Resident input and volunteers are always appreciated.

The park board would like to extend a special thanks to Joan Dunton, who will be leaving us. Your service to the board over the last two years was greatly appreciated. In keeping with that gratitude, we would also like to recognize the hard work of the volunteers who assisted with the weeding at the Ansted Park monarch butterfly/pollinator gardens. Remember we will need your helpful hands again next Spring.

Also remember, the parks do not close in the winter months. Don't wait until the New Year to start getting fit, seize the moment now. Start walking/running at one of our beautiful parks. Three of our parks, Ansted Park, Indian Creek Park, or White Park have walking/running paths for our residents to utilize.

In closing, the members of the Park Board would like to wish all Bedford residents a very Happy Holiday Season. We have much to be thankful for living in this good community. ■

ATTENTION...ATTENTION...ATTENTION

Residents who live in the Indian Acres, Mohawk Trails, Mildred or Springbrook Subdivisions:

If you plan on paying your Special Assessment District (SAD) in full without interest, you must do so by stopping in the Township Hall and speaking to someone in the Treasurer's Department before January 31, 2019. No bills will be mailed regarding this SAD, but updates and the spread sheet with the amounts can be found on the Township Website (www.bedfordmi.org) under the Residents tab and then scroll down to Special Assessment Districts. You can pay the amount in full anytime, but as of February 1, 2019 interest will start to accrue. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2018-2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month
Beautification Committee	Meets 2 nd Thursday of each month
Board of Review	Meets in March and possibly in July and December
Board of Zoning Appeals	Meets 1 st Monday of each month
Fire Advisory Committee	Meets 3 rd Thursday of every other month – Fire Station
Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee	Meets 1 st Monday of each month at 10:00 AM
Communications/Media Commission	Meets at 6:30 PM the 2 nd Monday of each month
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM – Ivor Lindsay – 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month
Park Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month
Downtown Development Authority	Meets 2 nd Friday of each month at 3:00 PM
Economic Development Committee	(Meetings not scheduled at time of publication)
Grant Writing Committee	Meets as needed

- All meeting times are at 7:00 PM 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, Supervisor, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182. You may also contact Bedford Supervisor, Paul Pirrone by calling (734) 224-7321 during normal business hours.

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.