



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XVIII • Issue 3 • FALL 2017

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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 AM - 5 PM
Monday - Friday

Paul Pirrone	Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger	Clerk
Paul R. Francis	Treasurer
R. LaMar Frederick	Trustee
TC Clements	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 734.847.6791 and the extension or email address shown)

Supervisor's Office.....	7322
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor	
Clerk's Department.....	7323
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk	
Treasurer's Department.....	7342
Paul R. Francis, Treasurer	
Finance Department.....	7325
David Manning, Finance Director	
Planning Department.....	7331
Karen Kincaid, Planning Administrator	
Building Department.....	7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official	
Assessing Department.....	7353
Alan Matlow, Lead Assessor	
Ordinance Department.....	7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor	
Trustee's Office.....	7344
TC Clements tclements@bedfordmi.org	
R. LaMar Frederick lrfrederick@bedfordmi.org	
Rick Steiner rsteiner@bedfordmi.org	
Nancy Tienvieri ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org	
Fire Department.....	(734) 847-2359
Adam Massingill, Fire Chief	
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

As I mentioned in the Summer edition of the Township newsletter, I believed we would be holding a school election in November of this year. I was correct, the school has filed to do so, which means you will have an opportunity to vote on November 7, 2017 for the school's non-homestead millage renewal.

This will be the only issue on the ballot, and is the renewal of the 18 mills the Bedford Public Schools receive on non-homestead properties only. In other words, if you own or are purchasing your home, do not own any other property in Michigan, and have filed with the township for the homestead exemption, this millage will not affect you. It will only affect rental properties, and businesses or companies in Bedford. For more information on this issue, please contact Bedford Public Schools.

If you are on our permanent absentee list, you will have received an absentee ballot application in the mail. If you have not already done so, please complete the application and return in the envelope provided. You will receive your absentee ballot in the mail by late September.

If you vote at the polls, you will have the opportunity to use the new voting equipment that I wrote about in the Summer newsletter. As I stated then, the equipment does not look much different than our current equipment, at least to you, the voter. You will receive a paper ballot, which you will take to a booth and vote, filling in the



The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

circle next to your choice. You will then take it to the new tabulator, which will be in a new case/cabinet and cast your vote. This new system has many upgrades, which will make voting day easier for both our election workers and my department on Election Day.

On another issue, I want to alert/inform everyone that effective August 21, 2017 Bedford Township no longer has a post office box for our mail delivery. All mail is now being delivered to our address at: **8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. Our return envelopes will reflect the address change, if you have any of our old envelopes, please either correct the address or do not use them. For a limited time, the post office will forward any mail that has our Post Office Box number on it but that will delay our receiving any mail or payment you would be sending us.

In closing, I hope everyone had a great summer, and are looking forward to a beautiful fall. Our office is open from **8 am until 5 pm Monday-Friday** to help and assist residents with **Passports, Voter Registration, Voting in general, Special Assessment Districts, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests**. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at **734.224.7323**. ■

When **Casey Weiser**, a social worker and founder of **Rethink Addiction** came to my office with regard to her planned **5K Walk/Run event** to fight drug addiction, she asked me to be a sponsor. Her request reminded me of my campaign promise to try to do something about addressing addiction problems in Bedford Township.

Despite the community meetings, the repeated warnings about the dangers of drugs, and campaigns to rid communities of drugs, we are still losing people. As **Dr. Carl J. Schmidt, Medical Examiner and Director** with the **Monroe County Health Department** states, *"regardless of how you feel about drug users, they're tragedies. They're someone's brother or cousin or spouse, they're people."*

After listening to Casey and asking why she is involved with battling addiction, she explained that she had lost her son's father to heroin. Casey wants people to know there should be no stigma attached to a family when someone passes from an overdose. She wants to let the community know that it's OK to talk about drug addiction, how it affects families and the resources that are available to help those in need. Casey asked me if I knew someone that has passed from heroin or other drugs and sadly, I had to tell her yes. I told her of two brothers I knew who both died from an overdose. Casey then asked Al Prieur who was also at the meeting the same question and he told her he had lost several cousins because of drugs and alcohol. Drug addiction affects us all either directly or indirectly.



What can be done?

To break the cycle of pills to heroin to death, the entire community



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone, Bedford Township Supervisor

must participate. Education, long-term treatment, open discussion and eliminating the stigma behind opiate addiction all have roles toward success. This is a local, state and national problem that we must continue to battle.

"If we don't change behaviors, all we're doing is putting Band-Aids on the issue," State Representative Jason Sheppard, R-Temperance states. I agree with Representative Sheppard you can't just put a band-aid on this problem. In my conversation with law enforcement and several others I was told that the problem is getting worse. People need to realize that addiction is happening to people from all socio-economic classes. People have gotten hooked on pain killers after surgery that never had a drug problem in their life. Prescription abuse is rampant and drug companies are telling us prescription pain killers are OK, when in fact they are highly addictive.

Drug abuse is hurting the social fabric of our country and the time has come for the community to come together to battle this national epidemic. What I am proposing to the Township Board, is to form a committee of professionals. Social workers, counselors, educators, law enforcement, business owners and people who have been affected by this terrible epidemic to come together and be a resource for our residents. This will be a vast undertaking; however we have unbelievable people in Bedford that can make this happen. If interested on being on the board or helping please call me **734.224.7322**. ■

Bedford Beautification Committee Update

AUTUMN IS A GREAT TIME TO PLANT MANY TREES AND SHRUBS not only for the reduced prices at nurseries. Approaching cool and wet weather is far friendlier to newly planted "woodies" than the heat and drought following spring planting. However, many plants have sat in their pots all season surrounded by their own roots forming root pots. These roots must be separated and spread out so that, first; they can properly seek moisture in the surrounding soil and, second; not eventually strangle the plant.

If the tree or shrub is not badly root bound, you may be able to tease the roots apart with your fingers or garden claw. But if you are faced with a tough pot of roots, it is time for tough love. Pull or cut off the mat of roots at the bottom. Then slice into the root ball from top to bottom in about four places. Reach in and separate or cut off any roots that are circling in the center and shake out some of the potting medium. Spread out the roots.

Plant in a hole large enough to accommodate the spread out root system and deep enough so that the base of the trunk is at ground level. Back fill with garden soil that has not been amended so that new roots are encouraged to spread outward. Keep your plant well watered until the ground freezes but do not fertilize until spring. Mulch will help retard water loss but do not pile it up against the trunk as this can create a haven for bark hungry critters. The roots will repair themselves throughout the fall and winter and you should be rewarded with new top growth in. ■



DON'T FORGET YOUR 2017 SUMMER TAX BILLS

As you are probably aware, your 2017 Summer Tax bills are due and payable on or before September 14, 2017 without interest being assessed. By Michigan statute, on September 15, a 1% interest charge must be added to your unpaid tax bill, and an additional 1% must be added the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is fully paid.

Taxes may be paid by cash or check payable to the Bedford Township Treasurer, by mail (using the return envelope provided), by using our convenient drive-up window, drop box, or service counter inside the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182. In addition, payments may be made by debit or credit card, and electronic check. A 3% third party convenience fee (user fee) will be charged. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of Monroe Bank & Trust, and Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch).

DEFERRED PAYMENT FOR 2017 SUMMER TAX BILLS AVAILABLE

Senior citizens (age 62 and over), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their 2017 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 deadline. If you qualify, payment of your 2017 Summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2018 without any interest or penalty added. Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's office at 734.847.6791, extension 7342 for the required forms and/or information regarding the deferment process. This may be important to you, so please don't overlook it.

PLEASE NOTE: Because we are a completely separate entity from the South County Water System, we are unable to accept debit card, credit card or e-check payments for water usage bills. We can only accept cash or checks payable to the South County Water System, which we then forward on to them as a convenience to you.

MINI UPDATE - TOWNSHIP ROAD COMMITTEE

As you may recall, the Bedford Township Roads Committee requested, and in August 2014 the Bedford Township Board received and approved a five year Pavement Asset Management Plan, prepared by our engineering consultants, Mannik & Smith Group, evaluating Bedford's primary county roads and the major local roads, but not the subdivision streets. Township roads were evaluated utilizing the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating) system, combined with additional factors including drainage conditions, road base conditions, shoulder conditions and average daily traffic volumes. These and other factors were combined into a formula developed by Mannik & Smith Group to form a basis for prioritizing specific road repairs and improvements needed. The initial Plan included recommended project timing and estimated costs by road project, spread over a five year period, amounting to approximately \$1.2 million per year for five years (\$6.0 million total).

The goal of the Township Roads Committee is to review and adjust the Plan at least annually to reflect the changing conditions of our roads, and to use it as the

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



basis for developing a running five year plan to maintain our roads in a proactive manner. Waiting until the roads deteriorate into major safety problems, as we have experienced in the past, is not the most effective or efficient way to maintain our roads. It takes careful thought and concerted effort to achieve the benefits that a running five year plan can provide - something that the township Roads Committee is committed to do.

By again joining in a county-wide asphalt material purchasing plan, combining the asphalt paving needs for all townships in the county, substantial material cost savings were generated. Several recommended road projects on our five year plan were moved forward into 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 fiscal years in order to take advantage of these cost savings. Our expenditures for road projects for fiscal 2014-2015 were \$1.155 million. Our expenditures for road projects for fiscal 2015-2016 were \$1.793 million. Road projects for fiscal 2016-2017 amount to a total of \$2.011 million, the township share of which amounts to approximately \$1.091 million, with the balance being paid by federal aid funds, Monroe County Road Commission funds, and other sources. Planned road projects for the 2017-2018 construction season total \$1,422,957, the township share of which amounts to \$1,179,799, with the balance being paid by the Monroe County Road Commission and other sources. Because by Michigan statute, the Monroe County Road Commission actually owns the roads in townships, all repair and improvement projects must be bid out and administered by the road commission. We do not control when completed road projects are billed to us (by the road commission) - we simply pay project billings when they are received by us.

A revised Five Year Pavement Asset Management Plan has just been received, and the Township Road Committee has begun work on planning for the 2018-2019 and future construction seasons - to develop an effective and efficient plan for road maintenance and improvements as we go forward.

****PLEASE NOTE: UPCOMING SEWER BILLING CHANGES!**

We have been informed that in order to make it easier and more convenient to budget for and pay higher quarterly water bills (due to rate increases by Toledo), the South County Water System will begin billing water bills on a monthly basis (rather than quarterly) starting this fall. In order to coordinate with the water billing cycle change, the Township plans to change sewer billing cycles to monthly billings rather than the current quarterly billing cycle. We anticipate this billing cycle change will take place at the same time that the water billing cycle change - this fall. When the billing cycle change date is determined by the South County Water System, we will announce it using the appropriate public media. ■

PASSPORT INFORMATION

By Trudy Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

The Clerk's Department at Bedford Township has been a designated passport agency since 2003. We are delighted to be able to assist our residents as well as residents of other communities in acquiring a passport so that they can travel abroad.

The U. S. Department of State now issues a "Passport Card" in addition to the "Passport Book". This "Passport Card" may only be used for land and sea travel to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. It cannot be used for air travel. It is a wallet sized card, and will provide a less expensive, smaller and more convenient alternative for those who travel frequently to the above destinations by land or sea. A passport card is not required for children aged 16 or under to travel by land or sea to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda, but they do have to have proof of citizenship (birth certificate) with them while traveling. The fees for a passport card are as follows:



PASSPORT CARD

	Adults-age 16 or over (valid for 10 yrs.)	Age 16 or under (valid for 5 yrs)
Passport Card Fee.....	\$30.00.....	\$15.00
Execution Fee.....	\$25.00.....	\$25.00
Total.....	\$55.00.....	\$40.00

The same information and photo will be required to be submitted as for a regular passport. You will fill out the application, submit a certified copy of your birth certificate, identification (such as a driver's license), and 1 passport photo.

The fee for a regular passport, as listed below:

PASSPORT BOOK

	Adults-age 16 or over (valid for 10 yrs.)	Age 16 or under (valid for 5 yrs)
Passport Fee.....	\$110.00.....	\$80.00
Execution Fee.....	\$25.00.....	\$25.00
Total.....	\$135.00.....	\$105.00

The fees to the U.S. Department of State must be in the form of a check or money order for citizens who wish to apply for a passport at Bedford Township Hall. If you wish to have Bedford Township take your passport photos, a \$10.00 additional fee will be charged along with the \$25.00 execution fee. The \$25.00 execution fee and \$10.00 fee for photographs can be paid by check, money order or cash.

All minors under age 16 are required to have a passport to travel out of the United States by air, and the consent of both parents or legal guardians in order to apply. For further information on this subject, access the Department of State's website www.travel.state.gov, or contact my office at 734.224.7323, Clerk's Department.

If you are planning a trip outside of the United States, please allow at least 4 to 6 weeks processing time for passport applications. If you need a passport sooner than that, you may want to consider expediting your passport application. The U.S. Passport Service will "expedite" your application for an extra \$60.00 fee per application. With this extra fee, your passport application will be processed in 3 weeks.

Since the Temperance Post office is no longer processing passport applications, we are now asking applicants to make an appointment to apply for a passport. Call the Bedford Township Clerk's Department at 734.224.7323 in order to do so.

For any other information, you can go to our website, www.bedfordmi.org and "click" on passport information. From this site you can get general information or access the U.S. State Department's website. If you do not have internet access, please call me or one of my staff at 734.224.7323. ■

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.



Monroe County has several agencies that provide services to citizens of the County including Bedford Township. In some cases, there is no cost for the service if qualified. In the next few installments of the **Bedford Township Update** newsletter, I will identify these agencies; outline the services provided; and how to contact the agency.

The Monroe Community Mental Health Authority provides individual services to people with behavioral health issues such as substance abuse, emotional disturbance and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Occasionally, the treatment is for a combination of mental illness and substance abuse. The Authority is primarily funded with Medicaid appropriations and will provide services to any qualified individual in Monroe County. The Authority develops short and long-term rehabilitation plans focused on the issues and needs of the individual. The mission of the Authority is to enrich the lives of their clients and promote wellness, help them identify and overcome their mental health problems and make them productive citizens in the community.

For example, the Authority provides treatment services for adults with substance abuse issues as inpatient or out-patient. The Authority provides crisis services 24 hours a day and authorization for hospitalization of Medicaid and indigent individuals where hospitalization is indicated. Several of the Authority departments offer in home or special location services for children (from 0 to 17 years of age) with severe emotional and/or developmental disabilities. The programs include assistance to the families caring for their children.

The Authority has established a program in cooperation with the Monroe County Sheriff Department to diagnose potential mental health or substance abuse problems with individuals arrested or otherwise detained at the Jail. The objective is to identify emotional and/or developmental disability issues before incarceration, often compounding their problems. The Authority is also working with the Monroe County Court system to identify individuals in the court system that may be aided by treatment plans for emotional and/or developmental disabilities or substance abuse. In these cases, early diagnosis of the mental health problems of the individual can lead to treatment and often recovery without incarceration.

To determine eligibility for services, contact the **Monroe County Mental Health Authority** at **734.243.7340**. The **24-hour emergency number is 800.866.7340**. A mental health professional will work with you. If the caller does not qualify for Medicaid funding or meet the medical necessity for treatment, the Authority will refer the caller to qualified professional mental health providers in the community. ■



Monroe County Service Agencies

By: R. LaMar Frederick, Bedford Township



**MONROE
COMMUNITY
MENTAL
HEALTH
AUTHORITY**

Bedford Park Board News

By: Connie Velliquette, Lew Smith, Jerry Goodridge, Joan Dunton, and Sally Dunn

*Fall is a wonderful time to visit our beautiful parks!
Each one of them is very unique!*

- **Parmelee Park** has **Disc Golf** and an excellent **Playscape**. Recently, **Phase I** of renovating the **Skate Board Park** has been completed. Phase II will include more improvements and will begin shortly.
- **Carr's Grove Park**, which is a lovely neighborhood park right in downtown Temperance, has an excellent playscape for the children, plenty of shade, and benches for relaxing.
- **Ansted Park**, our newest park, provides you with a leisurely walk on a trail. Be sure to check out the newly planted native plants which are attracting monarch butterflies, bees, and birds. You might also notice the new **Bat Houses** that have been installed by **John Ponke, Eagle Scout candidate**, and **members of Troop 777**. A job well done! The scout project also included mile markers which is a nice addition for our walkers and runners. A new **Pavilion** is scheduled to be constructed within a few weeks. There will be benches to use for picnics or just relaxing.
- **White Park** is the place to enjoy a game of **Pickleball** or **Tennis** on the newly resurfaced courts. There is also an excellent **Playscape** and a **Scenic Walking Trail**. The **Bedford Maintenance Department** and volunteers from the **Monroe County Sheriff's Department** cleared brush from the west parking lot off Consear Road to create 20+ more parking spots.
- **Indian Creek Park** has a wonderful, relaxing **Walking Trail**. Renovation of three bridges is scheduled to be completed soon.
- **Samaria Park Community Center** will be getting a fresh look with new awnings.
- The **Gazebo** at **Bicentennial Park** has been renovated by **Shane Miller, Eagle Scout candidate**, and **members of Troop 720**. A job well done!
- Remember, while **walking your dog, you should have the dog on a leash**. This Bedford Township ordinance *will be strictly enforced*.
- Thank you, **Bedford Community**, for supporting our **Fireworks Display** on **June 23** and we hope to see you soon at one or all of our special recreational park facilities. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

We resume Sunday Hours on September 10, 2017 and will be open on Sundays from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm through May 20, 2018, with the exception of major holidays.

- **Storytimes for preschoolers and toddlers resume the week of September 11, 2017**. We also offer something for everyone at our after-hours events on Friday nights, including family movie nights for all ages, Fandom Friday for tweens and teens, and Genealogy Club for those doing family history research.
- **Free Computer Classes** will be offered this fall at your Bedford Branch Library! Space is limited and registration is required for computer classes. Call the library at **734.847.6747** or visit <http://bit.ly/mclstechtraining> to register or for more information.
- **Computer Basics 1** from 2:00-3:30 pm, Thursdays for six weeks beginning October 26, 2017. No skill prerequisites. Class meets once a week for six weeks.
- **Social Networking Basics** Wednesdays September 6, 13, and 20, 2017 from 2:30 - 3:30 pm. You will need an email account set up prior to the course start date. Basic computer skills are helpful.
- **Windows 10** Mondays, October 16, 23, and 30, 2017 from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. A comprehensive 3-week class will provide hands-on training using Windows 10 computers. Bring your own laptop or use ours.
- **1 on 1 Computer Help** will be held the first Friday of each month from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. An open computer forum to hone skills, ask questions, and learn something new about technology. Bring your own laptop or devices. Mini topics discussed each month if time allows.
- Have you heard that you can now **Rent the Bedford Branch Library's Community Room** for your family friendly event? Birthday parties, showers, family reunions, etc. **The rental fee is \$250⁰⁰**. For more information, call the **Bedford Branch Library** at **734.847.6747**.
- Did you know that your Library is the place where you can meet with a **Monroe County Veteran's Affairs rep**, get **Medicare questions** answered by a trained specialist, participate in a **Tai Chi** or **Yoga class** or **make cool craft projects** like you see on Pinterest and HGTV? You can also make copies, scan, fax, use a die-cut machine, and have items laminated at your Library. Call us for information at **734.847.6747**.
- **Back to School** always means the Library will be a bit noisier and more congested than normal from 2:30 - 5:00 pm on school days. With the almost constant use of cell phones and other electronics, it is a national crisis that kids don't have enough in-person social interaction anymore, so it's a good thing they want to gather at our library to socialize. Please join me in welcoming Bedford's students back to school and to the library! ■

News from the Bedford Township Ordinance Department

The Bedford Township Ordinance Department has created a **Facebook page** for residents to access to get answers to Ordinance related questions and also allow the department to post information pertaining to ordinance issues. The site is called: **Bedford Township Ordinance Department**.

If you do not have access to a computer or the web, you can continue to contact us by calling the **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** at **734.224.7350**. ■



Complaints Regarding Buckeye Cable

The Communications/Media Commission asks residents with complaints regarding their service from **Buckeye Broadband** to first contact Buckeye to resolve their issues. **Buckeye Broadband** has call center staff and technicians available 24/7 to handle complaints by phone at **419.724.9800** or on their website at www.buckeyebroadband.com. If a resident has tried to resolve their issue with Buckeye directly and has been unsuccessful, **a complaint can be filed** with the **Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)**. Forms are available through the **Township Hall** and the **Bedford Branch Library** and can be filled out and mailed to MPSC; or you can directly contact them at 800-292-9555 or online at www.michigan.gov/mpsc by clicking on **"How do I"** then click **"file a complaint"**. Residents should be aware that this process is not an immediate resolution of their complaint. ■

2017 Bedford Township Assessing Department

Alan Matlow, MAAO • Christine Eichler, MAAO • Joe Keane MCAO • Kelly Elmer, MCAT

From time to time, the Bedford Township Assessing Department gets requests from homeowner's facing foreclosure seeking helpful information. Listed below is some of the information we have received that we feel may be of use and answer some of those questions, or just be a great resource to review.

Resources Information for Homeowners Facing Foreclosure **"Where to Look for Help"**.

- Access Step Forward Michigan at stepforwardmichigan.org. This is a program offered by the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Nonprofit Housing Corporation in collaboration with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)
- Access Michigan online resources such as the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force Toolkit at miforeclosureresponse.org/ or www.holdontoyourhome.org/.
- Become familiar with the Michigan Foreclosure law, the Michigan Tax Foreclosure law and the Michigan Foreclosure timelines.
- Learn about mortgage fraud and foreclosure rescue scams. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Access the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb to learn about your rights.
- For free assistance with legal issues, contact michiganlegalaid.org/.
- Learn how you can increase borrower purchasing power by utilizing down payment assistance along with MSHDA's MI First Home and MI Next Home mortgage products.

We hope that the information listed above will be of help.

Real Estate Site Reviews and Field Work

At this time The Bedford Township Assessing Staff is conducting real estate site reviews and field work for 2018. The following types of properties are being visited this year. Residential homes, Commercial and Industrial properties, along with partial and new construction sites. Property reviews will take place during daytime township business hours 8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. on weekdays through December. All assessing staff members will be in marked township vehicles and have Bedford Township Identification Cards.

Change In Ownership:

If you are a new resident, a long time returning resident or a resident that has moved into a different home in Bedford Township in the last year, we encourage you to verify with us that your (PRE) Principal Residence Exemption is in place in the current and upcoming tax year. With all the documents that need to be signed at the time of closing on a property, things do get missed. November 1st is the deadline for filing for the 2017 tax year.

If you have any questions or concerns about an upcoming real estate site reviews or your current (PRE) Principal Residence Exemption, please call the Bedford Township Assessing Department at 734-847-6791 Ext. 7353 for any property information. Visit our website at www.bedfordmi.org or visit the Assessing Office which is located on the first floor of the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road Temperance, MI 48182. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The office is closed on major holidays.

We hope that everyone has had a great summer. Schools either have or are about to open, so remember to slow down when driving. ■

Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

The Mission of the Bedford Township Fire Department is to Save, Serve and Protect the Citizens and their Property to the best of our ability!

The department has experienced significant change in the past few months. All of these changes have increased our ability to provide a high level of protection to our residents. Allow me to highlight some of the projects the fire department has worked on these last few months that are making our community safer.

- In July, we updated the fire departments operational plan. The most significant change to the operations plan is that we now have volunteer Firefighter/EMT's manning our station from 8 am until 10 pm every day of the week. This change has reduced the average time it takes to reach our residents in emergencies by nearly two minutes. Thanks to a massive operations plan update, we were able to accomplish this without an increase in our budget.
- We were able to purchase two LUCAS CPR devices and two CPAP breathing machines for each of our ambulances. These purchases have allowed us to deliver a higher level of care to our residents suffering heart of breathing problems than any other time in our history.
- In the next few months, we will take delivery of the departments first Advanced Life Support capable ambulance. For the first time in our history, we will be able to provide advanced level service to our residents. This will allow Paramedics in Bedford to deliver the highest level of emergency care permitted in the State of Michigan.
- Aside from the updated equipment and enhanced service, we are performing a comprehensive assessment of the entire organization in an attempt to become "leaner". We continue to identify areas of the organization which can be reduced or eliminated. The goal with this review is to ensure fiscal responsibility to our residents. Ensuring efficiency and being responsible with taxpayer dollars is one of our greatest responsibilities, one we don't take lightly.
- Our truck committee has been working diligently to find a plan for replacing our aging fleet. Our goal is to bring our department back into compliance with national standards for fire apparatus. Currently our ladder truck and two of our fire engines do not meet National Fire Protection Association recommendations for service life. We have developed a plan that will allow the updating of the ladder truck while still staying inside our annual budget.



All of these projects have allowed us to grow and become a more effective department in a relatively short amount of time. The next step in enhancing our service delivery will be increased training opportunities for our membership. I look forward to sharing information on our training advances in future updates.

It is truly a privilege to serve such a supportive community. We couldn't provide the level of service you deserve without you all. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2017-2018 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 As Needed • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Grant Writing Committee	Meets As Needed
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
Veteran's Committee	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM

- 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 Township 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.