



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XIX • Issue 3 • Fall 2018

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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.....	7320
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	
<i>tclements@bedfordmi.org</i>	
R. LaMar Frederick	
<i>lfrederick@bedfordmi.org</i>	
Rick Steiner	
<i>rsteiner@bedfordmi.org</i>	
Nancy Tienvieri	
<i>ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org</i>	
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

Don't Forget Your 2018 Summer Tax Bills!

As you are probably aware, your **2018 Summer Tax bills** are due and payable on or before **September 14, 2018** without interest being assessed. By Michigan statute, on **September 15, 2018**, 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, as explained below. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of **Monroe Bank & Trust**, and **Fifth/Third Bank (Lambertville Branch)**.

DEBIT & CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

For your convenience, the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Office** is pleased to accept debit card, credit card and electronic check payments for any payments you wish to make to Bedford Township for property taxes, sewer usage bills, building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits, passport fees, park facility rental fees, planning and zoning fees, cemetery lot sales and burial fees, etc. A Convenience fee (*user fee*) will be charged by a third party (*Point and Pay, LLC*) as follows: for tax payments (*only*), a user fee of **3% of the payment amount** will be charged; for all other debit and credit card payments, a user fee of **\$1.50 per \$50.00** increment will be charged, for electronic check payments (*online*), a user fee of **\$3.00** for payments up to **\$10,000.00**, **\$10.00** for payments in excess of **\$10,000.00** will be



Election News

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Are you a new resident to Bedford Township? Have you recently moved? Did you just turn 18 years of age? Or maybe you haven't voted in several years and are not sure if you're registered to vote here. The easiest way to check, if you have a computer, is to go to our website, bedfordmi.org. This site will connect you to the state's website (Michigan.gov/vote) which will give you election information and tell you if you're registered to vote and 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 6, 2018 Gubernatorial Election (and any future elections)**, Michigan Election Law requires you to do so at least 30 days before the election, which means you would have to do so by **October 9, 2018**.

ABSENTEE VOTERS

With the upcoming **General Election in November**, I would like to remind our permanent absentee voters to get your applications signed and returned to my office, if you haven't already done so. 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 (*you must be 60 years of age or older or unable to go to the polls because of a physical disability*) 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.**

ELECTION INSPECTORS

I would like to thank all of our election inspectors who worked the **August 7, 2018 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.

AUGUST 7, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION

The **August Primary Election** is over, with voter turnout in Bedford at 24%, which is not unusual, but is still a low 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.

Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



charged. **Debit and Credit Card payments** may be made at our convenient drive-up window, our service counter inside the **Bedford Township Government Center**, or online, using our township website at www.bedfordmi.org. **E-Check payments** can only be made online by using our township website.

DEFERRED PAYMENT FOR 2018 SUMMER TAX BILLS AVAILABLE

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their **2018 Summer taxes**, if your household income (*taxable and non-taxable*) is **\$40,000.00** or less. Qualifying agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. A deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Office** before the **September 14, 2018** deadline. If you qualify, payment of your **2018 Summer Taxes** may be deferred until **February 14, 2019** 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. This may be important to you, so please don't overlook it.

PLEASE NOTE: We are no longer able to accept payments for any South County Water System bills at the Township offices. Payments for water bills must be mailed to **South County Water System, 8489 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI 48182**, or paid in person at that office, or any **Monroe Bank & Trust branch**. **South County Water System** business hours are **8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday thru Friday.** ■

NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

The **November 6, 2018 Gubernatorial Election** will allow voters to elect a **Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Representative, County Commissioner, Bedford Township Trustee, and Local School Boards of Education**, in addition to local and state proposals. Please remember to vote on **November 6, 2018**.

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 Christians Church, Northwest Christian Church, the Compelled Church, the Bedford Library, and Shelton Park Church of God**, for their willingness to allow us to use their facilities as polling locations on Election Day. Difficulties with illegal campaign signs at these locations and candidates campaigning within 100 feet of the polling place entrance have caused minor problems in past elections, but with your help we were able to resolve these issues. ■

Bedford Park Board News

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

Welcome to our newest Park Board Member Rusty Wilke

The relaxed days of summer are moving into the beautiful season of fall. What a great time to enjoy a visit to one of our premier parks: **Samaria Park, Ansted Park, Carr's Grove Park, Indian Creek Park, White Park, or Parmelee Park.**

A special "Thank You" to volunteers who have given their time and energy during this hot summer to weed the butterfly/pollinator gardens at **Ansted Park**. Volunteers included **Marti Estes, George Kreft, Thomas Kleman, Kaczor Family, Carol Treece, Doug Larrow, and Gail Keane**. Anyone who would like to help, please call **Connie Velliquette** at **419.297.1977**.

The **Bedford Pickleball players** are having a great season at **White Park** courts. They will be going indoors in November at Bedford Jr. High gym. All are welcome—*especially beginners*. For questions please call **Community Education** at **734.850.6019.** ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

*Your community branch library is the place to be this fall!
Check out our line up of activities for all ages.*

- **Ragtime Spectacular with Ragtime Concert Pianist Peter Bergin Sponsored by the Friends of Bedford Library Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m.** at the **Bedford Branch Library** in the **Community Room**.
- Have you ever wondered why it's called **Ragtime**? Ever wonder what makes ragtime sound like ragtime? Learn the answers as Michigan-based ragtime artist, **Peter Bergin**, explores the richness of America's original national music in this interactive concert. Peter's mission is to celebrate life with music and stories through the rhythms of ragtime piano. Peter will feature **Scott Joplin, James Scott, Joseph Lamb, Eubie Blake, James P. Johnson** and many others, including favorites such as "**The Entertainer**" and "**The Maple Leaf Rag.**" **Peter Bergin** has been entertaining audiences for over two decades. Classically trained, he ventured forth in 2014 as a full-time independent musician after a 24-year career in software engineering. He hasn't look back since!
- **Join us September 25 at 7:00 p.m. to meet Mr. Hockey's son. Dr. Murray Howe is Gordie Howe's youngest son and is head of Sports Medicine Imaging for Toledo Radiological Associates and Promedica Health System's Sports Care program.** He is also the author of "**Nine Lessons I Learned from my Father**". **Gordie Howe** was a remarkable man, not just as an athlete, but as a man. This title will take the reader through the hours Murray spent writing his father's eulogy—*the hours immediately after his death*, as he gathers his thoughts and memories, and makes sense of what his father meant to him. The result is nine lessons, built out of hundreds of stories, that show us the man behind the legend and give us a glimpse of what we can learn from this incredible life. **Books will be available for sale and signing will follow the program.**
- Did you know your library did this? **Bedford Township Seed Library!** What is a seed library? A place where seeds can be share among the community. How does it work? Seeds are donated to the library, where they are placed in a "**card catalog**" for other people to "**check out**" for the growing season. Do I return the seeds? No, but you are welcome to harvest seeds from mature plants at the end of the season and donate them back to the library.
- **STEAM on Tuesdays.** The **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** **STEAM** stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.** We'll have a guided activity (*Example: Solar Cooker S'mores*) for the first half hour. After the week's guided activity, we'll get Legos and other gadgets out and leave you with those! This program is geared toward families, specifically elementary aged kiddos. Join us for fun with experimenting, coding, building, painting, counting, and more!
- **River Raisin Review** is now accepting submissions for their debut **Fall 2018 issue.** Writer ages 16 and up are encouraged to submit their poetry and short stories of any genre for our consideration. Go to <http://bit.ly/riverraisinreview>.
- **Announcing Mango Languages.** Learn a new language for free with your **Monroe County Library System.** Get started at mymcls.com/mangolanguages.
- **Genealogy Club.** The **second Friday of every month after hours from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Are you interested in genealogy? Come join the **Bedford Branch Genealogy Club** and lean genealogy skills, tips, and tricks. Have free use of the computers, local history room resources, and reference librarian help in tracking down your family history.
- **Join us in our effort to help green our community!** We are making efforts to create a more environmentally friendly library. We have a new refill station drinking fountain and encourage you to bring your refillable drinking bottle when you visit the Library. Partnering with the **Bedford Beautification Committee**, we hope to encourage more people to use cloth bags for shopping rather than plastic, and to place your plastic bags in our recycling box in the lobby. We now have two rain barrels to take advantage of natural water for our landscaping needs. We have converted to LED lighting and hope to install some controls systems on our HVAC equipment to both reduce costs and make the building more comfortable for our community. If you have ideas for other things we can do to be more green, please stop in and let us know. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

HAPPY FALL EVERYONE! First and foremost, thanks to our residents for supporting us in our millage request in August. We look forward to improving on the services we provide residents in the coming years. Approval of this millage ensures we will have safe and reliable equipment with which to provide service.

This summer has been an exciting time for us as the **Monroe County 911 surcharge, millage approval, and a \$536,000 staffing grant award** from the government have changed the course of our department. Combined, those three items will have a direct impact on public safety in Bedford Township for decades.

This fall will be a busy time for the **Bedford Township Fire Department.** In addition to responding to emergencies, we have a number of initiatives we are wrapping up as we head toward 2019. In the coming weeks we will be outfitting a second ambulance with advanced equipment so that we can provide high-level medical care to our residents throughout the entire township.

We also will be holding our **Annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast on October 13 at Station 2 in Lambertville.** This event is held each year in conjunction with fire prevention week to help us engage the community and promote home safety. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

With the help of the staffing grant, we will be transitioning from a volunteer department to a combination full-time/volunteer department this fall. Supplementing our volunteer members with full-time staff will allow us to decrease the time it takes to reach you in an emergency, and provide around-the-clock advanced level medical service.

In addition to the four full-time positions, our recruiting efforts for volunteers are paying off as well. With our new class this fall, we anticipate our volunteer membership will be above fifty (50) for the first time in nearly a decade. Replenishing our volunteer ranks and continuing to develop new talent will ensure we continue to deliver quality service when the community needs us!

Thanks again for your unwavering support of the department and our hardworking members. ■

Bedford Township's Downtown Development Authority News

It has been **Twenty-two years** since the **Bedford Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** was formed to widen the Secor/Sterns intersection and update infrastructure. That first project was completed in the year 2000 with initial funding provided by the issuance of bonds that were retired in 2012. Take a look at how far we have come since then. But first some background on the **DDA**.

Michigan Public Act 197 of 1975 provides for the creation of a **DDA** along with **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**. The primary purpose of **Public Act 197** is to promote economic growth and, thus, allows for the capture of the incremental growth of property taxes (**TIF**) within the **DDA** area to fund public improvements within its boundaries. These tax increases would otherwise be paid to other entities within the county.

So, thanks to **Public Act 197 and TIF**, not only were the initial bonds retired but the **DDA** has been able to envision and bring to fruition many improvements to the area covered by the **DDA**. The **Pearl Albert-Green Park**, solar lights at the park, sidewalks and streetscape improvements are a few of the most visible projects accomplished to date. The mast arm signals at the intersection were possible through a **\$321,000 TAP Grant** to the **DDA** and the soil contamination cleanup at the former Buddy's site by the **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** was prompted by **DDA** actions.

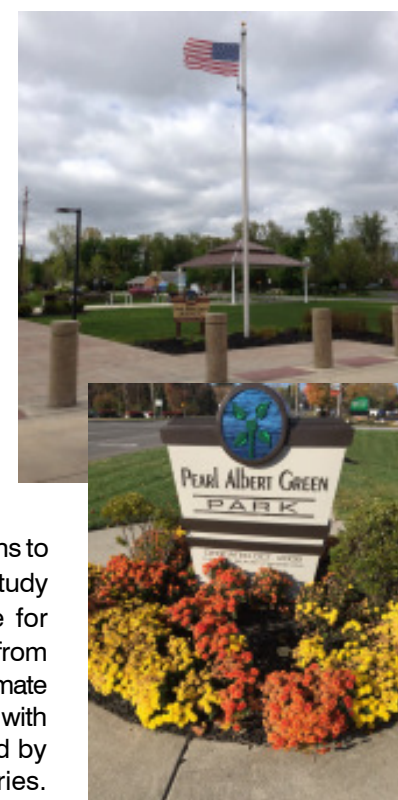
Appointment of **DDA Board Members** is in accordance with the Act and is composed of residents and those having property and business interests within the **DDA** boundaries, plus no more than two members at large and the Township Supervisor. **The General Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan** must be approved by the Township Board after holding a public hearing. The current Plans are effective to 2037. Each year the **DDA** prepares a budget and submits it to the Township Board for approval.

The focus of the **DDA** is to encourage existing property owners to invest in building renovations, entice new owners to locate and invest in the area and attract the attention of shoppers and serve the needs of community residents. Furthermore, the **DDA** is

committed to creating a "*green design*" theme by promoting energy efficiency and storm water best practices. Last, but certainly not least, the **DDA** is realizing its vision of creating a pedestrian-friendly environment that is attractive to passing motorists, invites people to stop and shop and is pleasant and safe for walking.

Of course, responsibility for upkeep goes hand in hand with public improvements. Accordingly, the **DDA** has been sending out bids and engaging service providers for upkeep of the **Pearl Albert-Green Park** and road sweeping. The addition of sidewalks and seating pods with trash baskets will entail further contracts for snow removal and trash collection.

Finally, just a word about the sidewalks. They currently serve the purpose of allowing pedestrians to move about more fully within the **DDA** area. A study will be underway to determine safe passage for pedestrians crossing both **Sterns and Secor** from the southwest quadrant, i.e., **Quail Hollow**. The ultimate goal is to connect other residential neighborhoods with the **DDA** area. However, the **DDA** is constrained by law to use its funds solely within its boundaries. Therefore, in conjunction with Bedford Township, the **DDA** will be looking for funding opportunities that become available to the Township for sidewalk expansion. ■





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

Burning...Blight...Ditches...Recycling!

Over the years we have seen attitudes change in regards to burning, recycling, composting and using ditches for drainage. In Michigan some municipalities have banned burning altogether, others have made recycling mandatory and newer developed properties have better drainage systems with no ditches. As Bedford transitioned over the years from being an agricultural community to more of a residential and commercial area fire safety became more of a concern, storm sewers were installed with better drainage and the **Monroe County Health Department** started a recycling program for our growing community. However, we still have concerns for safety, drainage, health and blight in Bedford.

The first changes started in 1992 with a recommendation from the Bedford Township Fire Department to have an ordinance on burning that could be enforced. Up until then people burned whenever with little regard for safety. In 1992 Ordinance No.68 was adopted on outdoor burning which is still enforced today. The ordinance has cut down on illegal burns, created a cleaner air environment and has saved the fire department money with less runs. If you do not wish to burn remember **Mulch King** at the corner of **Smith** and **Telegraph Roads** will take your leaves, sticks and grass at no charge for Bedford residents with ID. There is a charge for trailer loads.

As we Approach the fall burning season which starts the first weekend in October and ends on the last weekend in November there are some reminders:

- Residents are only allowed to burn on Fridays from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- Fires **MUST BE ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES**. Your burn piles can only be 3 feet high and 3 feet in diameter. You must be 15 feet from your neighbors' lot line and at least 25 feet from any building or structure.
- Residents who have been warned about burning illegally within the past year may be subject to receive a citation and a \$100.00 fine.

It should also be noted that if the **Bedford Township Fire Department** responds to an illegal burn they can issue a citation and bill the resident for cost recovery and man power needed to put out the fire. Burning on days other than those allowed during open burning season require a Burn Permit. Offseason permits cost \$25.00 dollars and can be obtained in the Ordinance Department. Residents can also stop by the Ordinance department to get a copy of the Burning Ordinance. To report violations for burning call the following numbers. Monday - Friday during business hours call either **Officer Pitzen** at **734.224.7341** or **Officer Cecil** at **734.224.7350**. In the evening and on weekends until 8:00 p.m. contact **Officer Redmond** at **419. 467.2981**. If the incident is occurring past 8:00 p.m. then call **Central Dispatch** at **734.243.7070**.

Grass and blight are areas of concern. Over the years ordinances have been written to address grass and blight which are enforced by our Ordinance Department. Grass complaints by citizens on residential and business property can call **Officer Shayla Pitzen** **734.224.7341**. When a complaint is made, **Officer Pitzen** inspects the

property to confirm its in violation. A violation is deemed valid if the grass is 6 inches or higher. **Officer Pitzen** will then send a certified letter in the mail to the property owner giving them 10 days to respond to the violation. If no response is received and the grass has not been mowed, she will order it cut by our contracted mowing crew. The cost of this will be placed on the property owners tax bill. A property owner will only receive one letter per year. If the lot is not taken care of on the date each month of the first violation notice it will be cut by our contractors again. Keep in mind we can only mow a property once a month. Grass season runs from May 1st thru October 1st of each year. Please keep in mind if you see a lawn not being cut that could be sign that a senior citizen may need help.

The **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** receives numerous calls regarding the mowing of ditches and drainage problems in the community. The Ordinance Department does not handle the mowing of ditches or drainage issues in the township. The first mowing of all ditches along **PRIMARY** roads such as Lewis, Samaria, Secor, Summerfield, Smith, Dean, and Temperance Roads are handled by the **Monroe County Road Commission**. They contract with a private company and they mow twice a year. First cut is the front of the ditch only, the second cut in the fall will be the entire ditch. The secondary local road ditches are mowed by contract with Bedford Township. Our contractor cuts three times a year, once in the Spring, and then in mid to end July, and a final cut in September.

If your ditch is not draining it could be for several reasons; a culvert could be plugged, cracked culvert pipe or tile, or too much debris in the ditch. For these complaints please call the **Monroe County Road Commission** at **734. 240.5100** or fill out their service request form at **www.mcrc-mi.org**.

Blight is always an ongoing issue in the community. If you see blight call the ordinance department and they will investigate it. Please keep in mind what you think is blight may not be. We still have agriculture properties along with commercial buildings in the area that are allowed to store equipment and other supplies on their property. If you live in a subdivision they may have deed restrictions as well that addresses blight and maintenance of your property.

Recycling is still going strong every Tuesday. The bins are located behind the **Bedford Township Hall** and it goes from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. **The Monroe County Health Department** pays for this program and it has been a great success in Bedford Township. If you have questions on recycling please Call **Dan Rock** with **Monroe County Health Department** at **734.240.7909**.

A representative from the **Monroe County Road Commission** and the **Monroe County Drain Commission** hold office hours every third Thursday of the month at the **Bedford Township Hall** from **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

As always if you have a question on the above topics please call the **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** at **734.224.7350** (*D. Cecil*), **734.224 7341** (*S. Pitzen*) or **734.224.7343** (*T. Redmond*). ■

Passport Information

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. 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 has now implemented a "passport card" in addition to the original "passport book". This new "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 15 or under to travel by land or sea to Canada, **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/over (valid for 10 years)	Age 15/under (valid for 5 years)
Passport Card Fee.....	\$30.00	\$15.00
Execution Fee.....	\$35.00	\$35.00
Total.....	\$65.00	\$50.00

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, are listed below:

PASSPORT BOOK

	Adults-age 16/over (valid for 10 years)	Age 15/under (valid for 5 years)
Passport Fee	\$110.00	\$80.00
Execution Fee.....	\$35.00	\$35.00
Total	\$145.00	\$115.00

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 \$35.00 execution fee. The \$35.00 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 need 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 734.224.7320, 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 2-3 weeks.

Passport applications are processed, by appointment only, daily between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in our department. **Call the Township Clerk's Department at 734.224.7320 to schedule your appointment.**

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 feel free to call me or one of my staff at 734.224.7320. ■

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.

Zoning and Variance Requests... Why Vote Yes?

By TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

One of the biggest questions I routinely am asked from my neighbors as **YOUR** representative has to do with why I vote in favor of approving zoning changes or requests for variances? This can be confusing to some so let me explain.

Before I answer however, we need to review what a change in zoning and variance mean. Simply put, rezoning a piece of property is moving it from one category of use to another. As an example, if a home is zoned as residential it has different rules and guidelines governing it than a piece of property zoned agricultural. A variance is when a property owner wants an "exception" done for them based on their need. Essentially, the property owner is asking for consideration to be made so that they can use a piece of property as they want. By the time we see it as a township board, the matter has already been reviewed and approved by other approving bodies (*ie-planning, zoning, ordinance, road commission, drain commission, etc.*).



The short answer on how I determine my vote is that if a request comes to our board and has met all the legal and regulatory requirements, and fits within our master plan, I will typically vote for it. As **YOUR** township trustee, I don't believe I should regularly decide what happens to a piece of property and how it should be used. I believe without question that land owners rights and their liberty to pursue those rights as they see fit must be prioritized. None of us, like the government telling us what we can and cannot do. Yes, we have laws, we have local ordinances, and those, unless changed legally, must be enforced to maintain order and provide liberty for us all.



A common false belief by some when they think about zoning, variances and development is that government can control economic growth. This is a tricky area because while government can cause a healthy climate for growth it is not best suited to directly control or dictate that growth. A township can, by way of smart economic development, be ready to solicit potential businesses with pre-packaged, pre-approved opportunities that incentive starting a business here.

For instance, a technology firm could be a great fit for our community as it offers tons of benefits with very few stressors on our infrastructure. Technology does not bring in additional heavy road use and does not typically require large real estate for big industrial needs or agrarian considerations. It is not traditionally a high-volume user of emergency services and/or water resources. It does however typically bring in families, with school aged children and above average incomes. This would bolster our economy, provide jobs, increase our school enrollment, and continue to improve all our property values.

As **YOUR** representative my promise has been, and will always be, to ensure that **YOUR** voice as represented by me is fair, unbiased, and reflective of what will serve our community best over the long run. ■

Bedford Beautification Committee Update

"How to Survive in the Age of Plastics, 'Miracle' Materials Turned Environmental Scourge"

The first manmade plastic, bakelite, was developed just over a century ago, and it spawned a petrochemical explosion of materials that has come to dominate mankind's life on Earth, both to its benefit and its detriment.

Plastics are everywhere, in so many items we use and handle daily, in the solid waste stream, along the roads as litter, and in the seas as a pervasive pollutant. Plastics even are incorporated into the tissues of our bodies, having entered the food-chain.

Join **Steve Pollick**, retired outdoors editor of **The Toledo Blade**, who will explore this world of plastics and our role in it in a **FREE** program hosted by the **Bedford Beautification Committee** on **Saturday, September 15** from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the **Bedford Branch Library**.



Steve Pollick

The program will include an overview of the environmental dilemmas that plastics pose worldwide, an audience-participation segment in increasing public awareness, and a session to sketch a strategy aimed at curtailing use of throwaway "recyclable" plastic grocery bags in Michigan.

The program is free to the public but registration is required by calling the **Bedford Branch Library, 734.847.6747**. If you require further information please call **Jan Sass, Bedford Beautification Committee Chairman** at **734.856.7243**. ■

NEWS FROM THE Bedford Township Assessing Department

Alan Matlow, MAAO • Christine Eichler, MAAO • Kelly Elmer

Small Business Taxpayers, there have been some new changes regarding the **Small Business Taxpayer Exemption Form 5076** for the upcoming year. Once the new **Form 5076** has been filed with the local assessing office the Taxpayers will no longer have to annually file **Form 5076**.

P.A. 132 of 2018 Small Business Taxpayer Exemption (MCL 211.9o)

On **May 3, 2018, Governor Snyder signed into law P.A. 132 of 2018**. This act made changes to **MCL 211.9o**, specifically changing the filing requirements to provide that eligible taxpayers do not have to annually file to receive the exemption.

More detailed information will be released in the next few months including the updated **Form 5076**, a recession form and an updated **Guide to the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption**.

Taxpayers will file **Form 5076** to claim the exemption. Once granted, the assessor will then continue to exempt the personal property until the taxpayer files a recession indicating they no longer qualify for the exemption. Assessors may implement an audit program to determine if taxpayers still qualify for the exemption. Taxpayers who fail to file the recession are subject to significant penalties and interest.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the **Bedford Township Assessing Department** at **734.224.7353**. For additional property information, you may visit our office during normal business hours or you can visit us at the Bedford Township website, **www.bedfordmi.org**. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2018-2019 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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