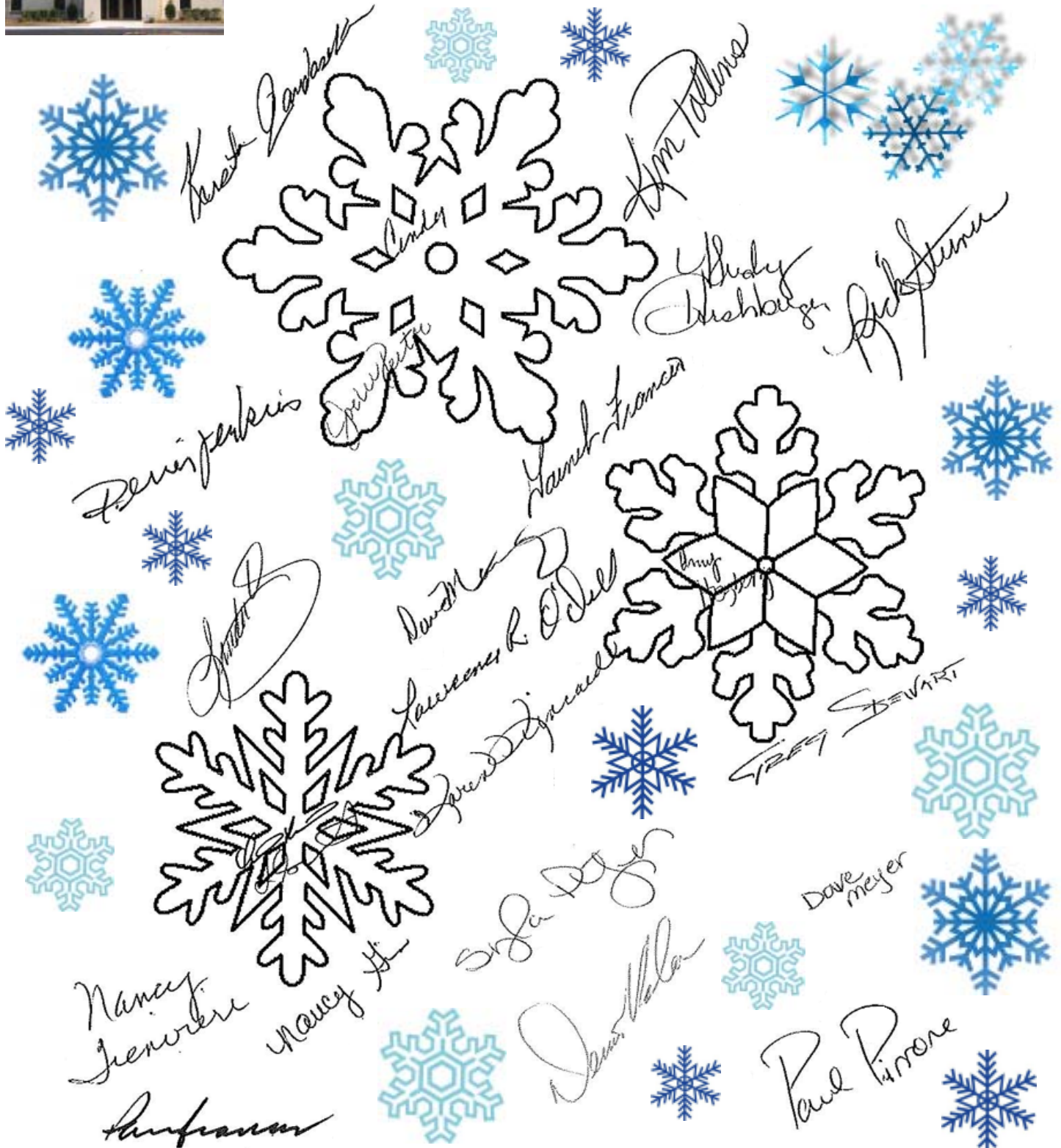




# BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XVI • ISSUE IV • HOLIDAY 2014



Happy Holidays From The  
Bedford Township Board & Staff

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**We're on the Web**  
**WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG**



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR code reader by taking a photo of the above code.

OR VISIT US AT THE:

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL**  
8100 JACKMAN ROAD • P. O. Box H  
TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182

**PHONE: (734) 847-6791**  
**FAX: (734) 847-7809**

Greg W. Stewart .....	Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger .....	Clerk
Paul R. Francis .....	Treasurer
Larry O'Dell .....	Trustee
Paul Pirrone .....	Trustee
Rick Steiner .....	Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri .....	Trustee
Dennis Kolar .....	Building Inspector
Chris Renius .....	Assessor

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**8 AM to 5 PM**  
**Monday-Friday**

**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

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# Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Rudy Ruiz, MBA, EFO,CFO • Bedford Township 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"*

- As the colder temperatures begin I would like to remind everyone of the dangers this season brings and highlight some helpful hints to help reduce those risks. This month I will begin with carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Each year, an average of 430 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, and there are more than 20,000 visits to the emergency room with more than 4,000 hospitalizations. Carbon monoxide-related deaths are highest during colder months. These deaths are likely due to increased use of gas-powered furnaces and alternative heating, cooking, and power sources used inappropriately indoors during power outages.
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Keep these devices at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations (*living rooms and bedrooms*) on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas (*hallways*) to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- If the carbon monoxide alarm is activated, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors. Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you. The fire department has monitoring devices that measure the levels of carbon monoxide and advise when it is safe to go back inside (*source: Ready.gov*)
- If you do not have a CO alarm in your home it would be a good idea to invest in one. If you have one that is 10 years old or older, it is time to replace it. For additional information on carbon monoxide or other preparedness recommendations please visit: <http://www.ready.gov>. ■



## Bedford Township Updating Master Land Use Plan

By Dennis Jenkins • Vice-Chair of the Master Plan Steering Committee

The **Bedford Township Board**, in conjunction with the **Master Plan Steering Committee** has begun the process of updating the Township's Master Land Use Plan. The plan was last updated in 2003 and Michigan State law requires each community to create a twenty year plan with reviews required every five years. The process includes several public workshops to gather input from the residents regarding cultural and recreational offerings, commercial, industrial and residential development as well as infrastructure needs for the future.

The first public workshop was held on **December 3, 2014** in the Bedford Senior High cafeteria. One additional workshop will be held in early January. The Bedford Township website also contains a link to a community survey that residents are encouraged to complete as part of the update process. The Steering Committee has created a Facebook page to keep the residents informed of the process and solicit input. The page can be found by searching Facebook for Plan Bedford. Please help us in "**Planning for Bedford Township's Future**" by participating in our workshop, visiting our Facebook page or emailing your thoughts to [planbedford@bedfordmi.org](mailto:planbedford@bedfordmi.org). ■



## From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Greg W. Stewart  
Bedford Township Supervisor

### Odds and Ends

- I am pleased to announce the first Habitat for Humanity project ever in Bedford. Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County is planning its first project in Bedford Township and hopes to establish a continuing presence in Bedford Township. For a successful launch Habitat is looking for homeowner applicants, volunteers, and donations to make the project possible. Habitat plans to demolish the home at 1080 Washington Street in Temperance and will construct a new, energy efficient home on the same site. The home will fit the style of other homes in the neighborhood. Homeowners are encouraged to apply who can demonstrate a need for affordable housing, a willingness to partner with Habitat as each adult must contribute 200 volunteers hours in the program, and an ability to repay an affordable mortgage which includes taxes and insurance.
- I had an opportunity to attend a Whitman Center Advisory Board meeting recently and to Quote President Kojo Quartey, "The Whitman Center continues to be open for Business". The Monroe County Community College is in talks with other Academic entities to form a collaborative partnership to use the Bedford facility to its fullest. Meanwhile the Community College continues to offer a variety of classes.
- I am glad to see so many diverse groups coming together for the opportunity of an "America's Best Communities" Grant sponsored by Frontier Communications. Headed up by the Bedford Business Association, groups such as the Samaria Heritage, Temperance Action Committee as well as the Lambertville Downtown Development Authority, the Bedford Schools and the Francis YMCA have been brainstorming to bring a multimillion dollar grant for Bedford.
- Bedford was the first Township to meet with the County Road Commission to begin identifying projects for the next season. We will be continuing with the five year plan that was approved by the Township Board, but we are also looking to finish up some projects that were left off this year and need to be addressed sooner than later. The Roads Committee will be discussing an increase in the budget once again to move forward early next year.
- Lastly, a reminder to shovel sidewalks this season. We want our school children to be safe on Bus routes, and it is the law. ■

## Full-Time Assessing Department Position for Bedford Township

By: Christopher Renius, MAAO, MCPPE • Bedford Township Assessor

Bedford Township is accepting applications for a full time position in the Assessing Department. State of Michigan MCAO Certification is preferred but is not necessary. This position is under the general supervision of the Township Assessor or his/her designee, which is under the Supervisor's department. The position is responsible for conducting tasks related to the data entry of several types of documents and information, is responsible to responding to public inquiries regarding assessment records and processes, perform a variety of tasks pertaining to the maintenance and updating of assessment records including conducting field visits, and to assist the Assessing Department in other tasks deemed necessary to the assessing function.

This successful applicant will be expected to enter, within one (1) year of hire date, and successfully complete the MCAO (*Michigan Certified Assessing Officer*) State Tax Commission course within the time guidelines outlined by the State Tax Commission. Applicant must possess a high

school diploma and a valid driver's license. Minimum of one (1) year of practical experience in an office setting preferably in an assessing, appraising or other real estate discipline. Good computer skills in a variety of software applications along with excellent customer service skills are a must.

A complete job description is available at the **Bedford Township Hall** located at **8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182** or on the Township website at **www.bedfordmi.org**.

**Please complete and return** an application and resume by **5:00 P.M.** on **Friday, December 12, 2014** to:

**Bedford Township**  
**Attn: Trudy Hershberger, Township Clerk**  
**8100 Jackman Road • P.O. Box H**  
**Temperance, MI 48182** ■



## The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk

### The Township Website

**This is just a reminder to check out the township website ([www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org)) to see all of the township information available to you.**

- If you want to rent any of the park shelters or either of the community centers, go to the website first to see if the date you have in mind is available, all scheduled usage is listed and the information is updated daily.
- Want to know what's going on in the Bedford community? All township meetings and/or park events are now listed on the calendar under upcoming events.
- We now have information regarding pricing for the purchase of cemetery grave lots as well as a map of the new Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery.
- Interested in what's on the agenda for township board meetings, or want to read the approved minutes from previous meetings? Check it out; we have all of that information listed. The Planning Commission, and BZA board also have their approved minutes on the website.
- Do you want to know the burning regulations for the township or information on any other township ordinances? They're on the website.

- Information on who is serving on the various township boards and commissions, when they meet, and an application is available if you wish to sign up to serve on a board or commission.
- Information is available on taxes, assessments and taxable values on properties.
- We have some information listed regarding the parks in Bedford and the amenities available, and a PowerPoint presentation showing photos of the Community Centers interiors, shelters, and playground equipment at our parks.
- Upcoming road projects in Bedford.
- The townships financial statements
- Information regarding the Township's Master Plan.

**All of these items are on the website and we're adding new info as quickly as possible. If you have any ideas about what you would like added to the site, please feel free to contact me at 734.224.7323. ■**



### Election News

By: Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk

The 2014 election year is over and the voting equipment has been put away until 2016. Bedford Township will not have any elections in 2015 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 their mail box full of political literature for so many months.

We had three elections this year, the first being the May School Election which had a millage issue on the ballot which was defeated with a 34% voter turnout. Next was the August Primary election, in which the turnout was only 16%, and last but not least was the General Election, which had a 44% turnout.

I would like to commend my staff and election workers for the great job they did in all of these elections. Nearly one third of our election inspectors were new this year, and both the new and the more experienced workers handled it all, with smiling faces. Thank you so much.

I wish to thank **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, The Compelled Church (Bedford Assembly of God), the Assembly of Christians 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 May and November elections. ■

# Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



## Tax Department Alert!

### 2014 WINTER TAX BILLS

The **2014 WINTER TAX BILLS**\*\* were mailed on or before **December 1, 2014**, and can be paid any time between **December 1, 2014** and **February 16, 2015** 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 water or 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, 2014** and **February 16, 2015**.
- 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](http://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 or inside*

*service counter*), the **Lambertville Branch office of Fifth Third Bank**, the **Temperance Branch office of First Merit Bank**, or at any Branch office of **Monroe Bank & Trust** in Monroe County

- Tax bills can also be paid by debit card, credit card (*a 3% user fee is charged*)
- If your **2014 Summer Tax Bill** is not yet paid, there will be interest and penalty assessed. Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.847.-6791**, ext. **7342** for the current balance due.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR 2014 HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAXES ARE GREATER THAN 3.5% OF YOUR TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, OR YOU ARE AGE 62 OR OLDER, PARAPLEGIC, QUADRIPLEGIC, HEMIPLEGIC, ELIGIBLE SERVICE PERSON, ELIGIBLE VETERAN, ELIGIBLE WIDOW OR WIDOWER, OR ARE TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR BLIND,** you may be able to delay paying your winter taxes on your **Homestead Property** until **April 30, 2015**. In order to find out if you qualify for this deferral, you must file either Michigan tax **Form MI-1040CR** or **MI-1040CR2** (*Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim*) for tax year 2014 with the State of Michigan, and provide a copy to the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department by **February 16, 2015**. Help will be available to assist senior citizens in preparing these tax forms at the Bedford Township Government Center (*Conference Room C*) on a first come, first served basis between the hours of 9:00am - 2:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays, February 4, 6, 11 & 13, 2015. Please bring proof (*Forms 1099, etc.*) of all 2014 income such as social security, pensions, interest, dividends, and any other income you may have received.

If you have any questions regarding deferring your 2013 Winter tax bill payment, please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **(734) 847-6791**, ext. 7342. ■

### Videos on Bedford Website

# [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org)



Now 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.

# Bedford Park Board News

By: John Mohr, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn, and Joan Schockman

**T**he **Bedford Township Park Board** would like to wish everyone a happy and joyful holiday and wonderful new year. This year has been a very busy one for the Bedford Township Park Board, from **Fireworks** in June to the annual **Christmas Tree Lighting at Samaria Park on November 28** and at **Carr's Grove Park on December 7**. Below are listed some of the projects we're looking at for the **Spring and Summer of 2015**.

## PROJECTS FOR 2015

### Ansted Park

- Completion of the walking trail, drainage, and plantings of natural/native plants - 50% of costs to come from Federal/State grant. This project was delayed from last year until funds were available.
- Placing signage around the perimeter of the park to define the boundary of the park

### Carr and White Parks

- Checking the cost for the repair of tennis court surfaces

### White and Indian Creek Parks

- Working with the Road Commission to approve speed limit changes on Douglas Road between Conसार and Dean Roads and installation of a walkway between Indian Creek and White Park.

### All Parks

- The board is researching the possibility of installing a dog park at one of our sites, looking for funding and a location that will be both convenient for residents to use but not near residential areas. ■

## Representative Government

## DECISION MAKING

By Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

**B**edford Township is a form of Representative Government. Most residents know this since your Township Board is an elected Board and represents each citizen within the Bedford community. Once the representatives are elected it does not matter if you voted for the ones who won the office or if you even voted. Those elected officials become your representatives in all decisions that are made or ideas that come before the Board to be considered.

As **YOUR** representatives we make the decisions on your behalf. It is not an easy task for seven (7) people to figure out what is best for the 30,000 citizens they represent. Decisions must be made on what kind of a community Bedford should be, how the tax dollars should be spent, what ordinances and liberties should be enacted, whether we should have progressive development or maintain the status quo. These are difficult decisions that when enacted will carry long-term effects for all residents. Can you afford to remain silent on these issues?

It is **YOUR** responsibility to contact any one of the seven elected representatives to share your opinions. The seven Board members should never be elected and forgotten. Does it seem reasonable to allow seven people to be the

minds and voice of 30,000 residents? If the Township Board never hears from the citizens who are subject to the decisions that are to be made on how **YOUR** tax dollars are spent, then the decisions are limited to only what seven minds can contribute.

This is **YOUR** Township, **YOUR** community, **YOUR** "little corner of the world". Every resident must take some responsibility in forming the vision for **YOUR** community. Over 150 years ago Abraham Lincoln stated, "*that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*" It is the **PEOPLE** who are the government The Township Board is simply our representatives within this community. Shall we give complete freedom to seven Board members and then require 30,000 to live with the results?

Let your voice be heard! Get involved! Volunteer for a committee@ Attend the upcoming Master Plan meetings! Lend your voice to the Fire Department Strategic Planning! Attend the Township Board meetings! Call, email or write **YOUR** representatives! This is a wonderful community and with your help we will keep it that way. ■



# Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

*The Bedford Branch Library is again alive with the spirit of the holidays! Stop in to see the beautiful trees decorated by community organizations and businesses in our Annual Hall of Trees through the first of the year.*

We are now offering Teen Tuesdays each Tuesday of the month! This is held in the Community Room and starts right after school. No registration required. Feel free to drop by. Snacks are provided! *(This program will not take place when school is closed.)*

- **First Tuesday of the month:** Pizza and Pages *(teens bring any book to discuss)*
- **Second Tuesday of the month:** Open Gaming *(games will be provided)*
- **Third Tuesday of the month:** Makerspace *(different DIY project each month)*
- **Fourth Tuesday of the month:** Movie Day *(different movie shown each month)*
- **Fifth Tuesday of the month:** Anything Can Happen Tuesday *(program will vary if a fifth Tuesday occurs)*

We have a new collection designed to support adult literacy that is also helpful for reluctant readers. Ask library staff for more information.

Mark your 2015 calendars now! **The Friends of the Bedford Library** will again host the **Travel with Friends Series** on Sundays in February *(8th and 22nd)* and March *(8th and 22nd)*. When the weather outside is frightful, come warm up and enjoy armchair travel at the **Bedford Branch Library**. Each program begins at **2:00 pm**.

You can give the gift of blood to help save a life at your Bedford Branch Library at our **American Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Monday, December 22** from **1:00pm-6:00 pm**. If you are interested in donating, please contact either **Jodi Russ** or **Marsha Langenderfer** at the library at **734.847.6747** to make an appointment.

The **Friends of the Bedford Library** need your help with their next fundraiser! We are collecting new and gently used purses for a **"Books, Bags, and Bites"** sale that we will be holding after the first of the year. If you have purses in good condition that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the **Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**.

Winter is the perfect time to curl up on the couch with a good book or movie and your Library is the place to find the perfect entertainment.

We offer ebooks, eaudiobooks, and emagazines as well, so you don't have to leave the comfort of your home to find something either educational or entertaining from your library. You just need a valid Monroe County Library System library card. Don't know if you have one? Call us and find out, or better yet, stop in and see us!

We are open seven (7) days a week during the winter for your convenience. Our phone number is **734.847.6747** or visit our website at <http://mymcls.com>. ■

## FEMA Maps and Flood Insurance Notification

By Bedford Township Planning Department

Some residents have received a notification from **FEMA** (*Federal Emergency Management Agency*) and/or your mortgage lender stating that you are required to obtain flood insurance for your property. This may be news to you, as you have never been required to do so in the past. As required by **FEMA**, Bedford Township adopted the revised **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Rate Maps** on **October 2, 2014**. The maps, which are typically revised every ten years (last revision April 20, 2000), are the official flood zone maps and are what is used to determine if a property is located within a flood zone.

If you have received a letter and are questioning if you are located within a flood zone, the maps are available for viewing on the second floor of the **Bedford Township Government Center**. While the Township cannot make an official determination if flood insurance will be required, a property owner can hire a surveyor to determine the actual elevation of the property as it relates to the flood zone. ■



**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**



**Bedford Township**

P. O. Box H • 8100 Jackman Road  
 Temperance, Michigan 48182

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 TEMPERANCE, MI  
 PERMIT NO. 65

**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 BEDFORD TOWNSHIP**

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
 2014-2015 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Bedford Township Board .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month
Beautification Committee .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month
Board of Review .....	Meets in March and possibly in July and December
Board of Zoning Appeals .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month
Cablevision Committee .....	Meets as needed
Fire Commission .....	Meets monthly as needed • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Bedford Library Board .....	Meets 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month
Housing Commission .....	Meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month
Park Commission .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month
Downtown Development Authority .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
Temperance Action Committee (TAC) .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lambertville Pride Committee .....	As Needed
Samaria Heritage Committee .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month • Samaria Hall (Park) at 6:30 p.m.

- **All** meeting times are at **7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated.
- **All** meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall • 8100 Jackman Road • Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The **Library Advisory Board** meetings are held at the **Bedford Township Branch • 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: Greg W. Stewart, Supervisor • 8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H • Temperance, MI 48182*. You may also contact **Supervisor, Greg W. Stewart** by calling **(734) 847-6791, ext.7322**.

**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.**