

# Bedford Township THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XVII • Issue IV • HOLIDAY 2016



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 and scan 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

Paul Pirrone Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger Clerk
Paul R. Francis Treasurer
Michelle Bork Trustee
TC Clements Trustee
Rick Steiner Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri Trustee
Dennis Kolar Building Inspector
Alan Matlow 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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### **Treasurer's Department News**

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer

#### **2016 WINTER TAX BILLS**

The 2016 Winter tax bills were mailed on or before December 1, 2016, and can be paid any time between December 1, 2016 and February 14, 2017 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, 2016 and February 14, 2017. Interest on the unpaid balance must be added after February 14, 2017.
- If you have refinanced your home mortgage or paid off your mortgage in the last year, please call our
  office. Many times the banks or mortgage companies do not let us know that you have an escrow
  account for payment of your property taxes.
- We offer **Direct Debit** or **ACH payment** as an optional method for payment of your taxes. Authorization forms are available in the Treasurer's Department or online at www.bedfordmi.org
- For your convenience, you may pay your tax bills by mail (using the envelope provided), or in person at
  the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI (convenient
  drive-up window, drop box or inside service counter), the Lambertville Branch office of Fifth Third
  Bank, 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 or credit card (a 3% user fee is charged).
   We are authorized to accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, and AMEX cards.
- If your 2016 Summer Tax Bill IS NOT yet paid, there will be interest and penalty assessed. Please visit
  our website or call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Department at 734.224.7342 for the current balance
  due.

### \*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*: YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DEFER PAYMENT OF YOUR 2016 WINTER HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAXES UNTIL APRIL 30, 2017 - IF:

- You are a senior citizen (age 62 or older).
- You are an eligible veteran, eligible service person, eligible widow/widower, paraplegic, quadriplegic, hemiplegic, totally and permanently disabled or blind.
- Your total 2016 household income (taxable and nontaxable) is \$50,000 or less.
- The taxable value of your homestead does not exceed \$135,000.

In order to qualify for deferred payment of 2016 Winter property taxes, you must file 2015 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit form MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2 with the State of Michigan, and provide the Bedford Township Treasurer's office with a copy on or before February 14, 2017. **WITHOUT A COPY OF THESE FORMS, THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT GRANT DEFERRED PAYMENT**.

**NOTE**: R.S.V.P. VOLUNTEER HELP WITH BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS in preparing these tax forms at the Bedford Township Government Center (*Conference Room C*) on Monday, February 6, Wednesday, February 8 and Friday, February 10, 2017 between the hours of 9:00am - 4:00pm (*BY APPOINTMENT*). Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342** to arrange an appointment. Walk-ins will be served on the first come, first served basis between scheduled appointments if time permits. Please bring proof (*Forms W-2, 1099, etc.*) of all 2016 income such as wages, social security, IRA's, pensions, interest, dividends, and any other income you may have received in 2016, plus medical health, dental and vision insurance premiums paid in 2016. You may also qualify for a home heating tax credit, so bring your home healing bill amounts for the period 11/01/15 - 10/31/16. If you have any questions regarding deferring your 2016 Winter tax bill payment, please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342.** 



### The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger Bedford Township Clerk

### **Election News**

he 2016 election year is finally over. 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 four elections this year, the first being the March Presidential Primary election with a low turnout. The

second was a school election in May, which only had a county-wide millage issue on the ballot. Next was the August Primary election, in which the turnout was moderate, at best, approximately 25%. Last and not least was the Presidential



Election, which had a 67% turnout. Of that number, 25% voted absentee. I was thrilled to see that kind of turnout, but it stretched my staff to the limit. I must take a moment to commend them for the magnificent job they did in this election. They always do a great job, but with the huge absentee voter turnout, over 4,200 ballots, the numerous calls, people at the counter, etc., they were tremendous. I am fortunate to have such dedicated hardworking employees. I also want to thank the "people in the trenches", our election workers. They were faced with long lines in the early hours, many first time voters, new election

laws, computers, and old voting machines that were not always functioning at their best. They handled it all, with smiling faces. Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

I won't give election results for all the races on the ballot, because you've probably all read the newspapers, web sites and blogs. Instead I will just list the names of the winning candidates for Bedford Township Board.

The Bedford Township Board members are as follows:

Paul Francis, Treasurer Trudy Hershberger, Clerk Paul Pirrone, Supervisor Michelle Bork, Trustee TC Clements, Trustee Rick Steiner, Trustee Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

I would like to congratulate all of the candidates, whether they won or lost. Just being willing to run for local office shows you care for this great community that we all call home. I know those who won will work hard to do their best for our community.

In closing, I would also like to thank all of our voters for their patience as they waited in line to vote. It was an important election and I'm glad so many of our voters exercised their right to vote.

### BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### **HOLIDAY TREE ADVICE**

The following is an excerpt from **"Holiday Decoration Safety Tips"**, a publication of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

"Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide

spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible." For more tips, go to: www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/121347/611.pdf.





# From The **Supervisor's Desk**

By:
Paul Pirrone
Bedford Township Supervisor

### **To You Bedford**

irst of all, thank you Bedford residents for placing your confidence in me and electing me to be your Supervisor for the next four years. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve you and work on your behalf. I intend for these upcoming four years to be a time of new ideas, positive and well-planned growth, and investing in the health, safety and welfare of our community.

I see Bedford as our community – not just my community. I want to bring unity with a vision of cooperation among our entire community – schools, businesses, organizations, churches, and all governmental agencies. We are Bedford, and supporting each facet of Bedford will make us all stronger.

I plan on focusing my attention on reaching all age demographics here. We must retain our younger generations, and in order to do that our communication needs to be multi-level to address the different ways all generations communicate. Of course our entire Board must



have a similar vision in order to move forward in this area, but I believe we can openly discuss and reach consensus in order to bring those ideas and many others to completion.

My goal is to lead a team. Seven elected officials serve you on this Board. If we strive together to work as a team, we can each bring our ideas and perspectives to make decisions for the best interest of Bedford. We won't all agree on everything, but we can all agree to come to the middle ground and concede our extreme positions. I will lead the team, but I am not the ruler of the team. I am confident that I have men and women serving with me that are willing to discuss openly, listen to each other's ideas and try some new things when necessary or continue with the methods that are currently working. I will keep each Board member informed and knowledgeable concerning what is happening in our community and what will be coming before the Board. By doing so this will ensure that each Board member has equal input and opportunity in every decision as we go forward. But remember Bedford - We want your input. I want to hear your ideas and see you get involved which is why I plan to hold a town hall meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM before the regularly scheduled Board meeting. We work for you and you deserve our BEST effort. I plan to ensure that you get just that from each of us. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you.

### Sidewalk Snow Removal

ith the winter season quickly approaching, the Bedford Township has a ordinance in effect regarding snow removal from sidewalks throughout Bedford. Of particular concern is the school bus routing and pick up

procedure that will require students to walk to a central pick up point within the subdivisions. Many parents have expressed concern that without a requirement in place to shovel sidewalks, students will be forced to walk in the street. The ordinance requires that property owners shovel snow from the sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of a snow storm. Most property owners generally do clear their sidewalks without any intervention. The ordinance is meant to provide some guidance and to deal with those instances where snow accumulates over a period of time making the walks inaccessible.



Enforcement will be on a case by case basis so that senior citizens and those who leave the area for a period of time will be able to make arrangements for snow removal. The full amendment can be picked up at the Township hall, or can be viewed on the Township website at **www.bedfordmi.org**.



### Bedford Township Fire Department Update



By: Ron Whipple, Fire Chief/ Fire Inspector Bedford Township Fire Marshall

### **Safety Tips For Holiday Decorations**

HE BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT and FIRE CHIEF RON WHIPPLE offer some safety tips for decorations for the Holiday Season. Candles and Christmas trees add a joyous and festive mood for the season, but when decorations such as these are not used properly or safely, they can cause fires, injuries and death. More and more holiday decorations feature candles and lights, lending a beautiful touch to ceremonies and events. However, consumers should remember that lighted candles that are left unattended could bring tragedy. The following safety tips will help prevent many of the holiday decoration-related fires and tragedies that occur each year.

**Trees** - When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant". Although the label does not mean the tree will not catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are difficult to pull from the branches and the branches

do not break when bent between your fingers. The butt of the trunk of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.

When setting up the live tree in your home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Keep the stand filled with water to help prevent the tree from drying out. Trees should be checked daily and be removed when dryness occurs. The drier the tree, the greater the fire hazard.

**Lights** - Whether indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL, which indicates conformance

with safety standards. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.

Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare

wires, or loose connections and throw out any damaged

sets. If using an extension cord, make sure the extension cord is rated for the intended use.

Before using lights outdoors, check the label to be sure they are certified for outdoor use. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings of lights in place, no nails or tacks.

Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire. Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault interrupters (*GFCls*).

**Decorations** - Use only non-combustible or flameresistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable

will not be bumped or knocked over. Do not place candles on tablecloths when the edges of the tablecloth hang over the edge of the table and can be pulled by children.

holders, and place candles where they

**Fireplaces** - Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. These look very pretty, but can spark and pop outward. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as the wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely. ■

### Have a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season!

# 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.



### **News From The Assessing Department**

By: Alan Matlow, MAAO Bedford Township Assessor

### New and Current Resident of Bedford Township in a New or Existing Home

To verify that your **Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)** is in place for the upcoming year only takes a few minutes of your time, and can save you hours of grief trying to get it corrected. Visit the Bedford Township web site at **www.bedfordmi.org**. Check under **Property and Tax Info**, enter your address, select your address, and locate the **Principal Residence Exemption** Information section. If you see 100 %, your PRE is in place and you don't need to do anything else, if it does not say 100%, please contact my office at **734.224.7353** and we will help you correct the problem.

#### **Bedford Business Community**

The **2017 Personal Property Statement form(s)** will be sent out in mid-December of this year. Small Business Owners, please review **Form 5076**, the **Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption Under MCL 211.90**. If you qualify, you must complete, sign and return the form by **February 10, 2017** to receive your qualified exemption. If your business has closed or you are no longer in business, please send a letter to the Assessing Department informing us. This can save you unwanted tax bills in the coming year.

#### **Veterans**

Remember, if you qualified for and received the **Disabled Veterans Exemption for 2016**, you must refile **Form 5107** for the calendar year 2017. Go to **www.michigan.gov** and search for "Form 5107". Return the completed form with supporting documentation to the Bedford Township Assessing Department.

#### **General Information**

Heating your home can impact your budget. Helpful hints and information may be found at **Be Winter Wise**. Access the site at **www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise**. ■

# Moving Bedford Forward

Nancy Tienvieri
Bedford Township Trustee

he 2016 Election is over and it's time for the newly elected Board to get on to the business of governing Bedford Township. There are many things that have been left on the table with which decisions should be made, such as Board Policy decisions and revisions, open burning, Committee appointments, and many more. There also are many ideas still to be

generated by former and new Board members that will need deliberation and eventual decisions. Each Board member has been appointed by the voters, and each Board member has ideas and interests that may benefit the public, but unless the idea is brought for discussion by the entire Board we will not have an opportunity to move Bedford forward for the good of the public. Each member has valuable input to present. Doing the same thing every year because that is how we have always done it only stagnates a community.

The Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees all serve together in a General Law Township, and each has an equal vote on every idea presented to the Board. Some may agree and some may disagree, but having different opinions on any item before the Board is not bickering. It is



called debate, and debate is necessary in order to bring seven elected officials to an agreed upon solution for leading the community. If we shy away from debate because we are not permitted to disagree with colleagues then we end up with much of what transpired in the last four years - many items were never resolved and left hanging because the Board did not agree during the debate. Instead of looking for a middle ground the items were simply left unresolved. Margaret Thatcher once said, I love argument, I love debate. I don't expect anyone just to sit there and agree with me, that's not their job. I wholeheartedly agree! Hubert Humphrey said, Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent, and debate. Though he was talking about something as critical as freedom, it still holds true that good decisions are hammered out in the midst of discussion, dissent and debate.

So I am asking the public to embrace hearty discussion and debate among your Township Board. Adults should be able to disagree, debate, and "hammer out" ideas in order to reach a common ground with which to govern Bedford Township. If after debate, some Board members are not able to vote to support whatever decision is reached by the majority that is acceptable. Board members should vote their conscience and not be expected to "go along to get along". Again, as adults we must be able to agree to disagree and still be respectful to one another. Once a decision is made by the majority, we all should get behind the decision.

Hold your representatives accountable Bedford. We work on your behalf!

### **Bedford Park Board News**

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

he Presidential Election is over, and the residents of Bedford Township have elected the following candidates as their new Bedford Park Commission. Connie Velliquette, Sally Dunn, Joan Dunton, Lew Smith, and Jerry Goodridge will now be overseeing Bedford's parks. In addition to the new members, beginning January 1, 2017, you will call the Treasurer's Department (see the phone number listed below) to schedule the rental of any of the parks.

#### CARR'S GROVE PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Carr Park is located on Lewis Avenue, north of Temperance Road in Temperance, Michigan. A 6 acre parcel of ground, Carr's Grove Park is a popular playground and recreational facility for children, residents and visitors of Bedford Township. In addition to the children's playground equipment, it features permanent grills, benches, picnic tables and a large shelter housing additional picnic tables. The park has a basketball court, two volleyball courts, two tennis courts and a ball diamond. Rental of the shelter requires a permit and \$25\overline{9} fee, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017).

Carr's Grove Community Center, adjoining Carr's Grove Park, has a meeting/recreational room with kitchen and restroom facilities. It is a facility very much in use, providing a location for organizational activities, and family and social events. Rental of the Community Center requires a fee of \$250\omega and a 200\omega refundable deposit, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017) for reservations and availability information.

### SAMARIA PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Samaria Park is located on Samaria Road between Jackman Road and Lewis Avenue. The park is 13 acres in size and has playground equipment, a shelter with picnic tables, permanent grills, and a softball diamond. Rental of the shelter requires a permit and \$25<sup>90</sup> fee, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017).

Samaria Community Center, adjoining Samaria Park, has a meeting/recreational room with kitchen and restroom facilities. It is a facility very much in use, providing a location for organizational activities, and family and social events. Rental of the Community Center requires a fee of \$250\omega and a \$200\omega refundable deposit, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017) for reservations and availability information.

#### WHITE PARK

White Park is the largest of our active parks, with a total of 26.47 acres and is located at the corner of Consear and Douglas Roads. It has playground equipment, two shelters with picnic tables, permanent grills, tennis courts, and 6 ball



diamonds with lights, a concession stand, exercise trail, and

brand new pickle ball courts. Rental of the shelter requires a permit and \$25<sup>90</sup> fee, call **734.224.7342** (effective 1/1/2017).

#### PARMELEE PARK

Parmelee Park is located off Summerfield Road at the end of Dorr Street and comprises 19.04 acres of land. It has playground equipment, shelter with picnic tables, permanent grills, tennis courts, a lighted ball diamond, basketball court, nature trail, a skate board park, and a 9 hole disc golf course. Rental of the shelter requires a permit and \$25<sup>oo</sup> fee, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017).

#### INDIAN CREEK PARK

Indian Creek Park is located across the street from White Park on Douglas Road. It's a 9 acre park that is the result of a joint effort of the Bedford Park Commission, the Bedford Township Board, and the Bedford Township Park Board. The park has a shelter with picnic tables, permanent grills, 8 ball diamonds, a soccer field, and a walking/jogging trail. Rental of the shelter requires a permit and \$2500 fee, call 734.224.7342 (effective 1/1/2017).

#### ANSTED PARK

The newest of Bedford Township's Parks, **Ansted Park** comprises 13 acres of active park usage, and is located at the corner of Lewis Avenue and Samaria Road. The new walking trail has been completed; native grasses and flowers in the

center area of the park have been planted. We also plan to put a small shelter on the site and better signage. Two Eagle Scout applicants have built park benches that have been placed at intervals



around the walking trail. Come out and visit this beautiful, quiet park.

#### VIENNA PARK

Vienna Park is a Monroe County Park located on Vienna Road off of Crabb Road in the northwest portion of the Township. Shelters, ball diamonds, playground equipment, and a disc golf course are available at this location. To rent a shelter or ball diamond, contact the Monroe County Finance Department, 734.240.7250. ■



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



## POSTAL CUSTOMER BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

## BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2016-2017 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Township Board	
Beautification Committee	
Board of Review	
Fire Advisory Committee	
Communications/Media Commission	
Bedford Library Board	
Planning Commission	
	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:* **Paul Pirrone**, **Supervisor 8100 Jackman Road P. O. Box H Temperance**, **MI 48182**. You may also contact **Supervisor**, **Paul Pirrone** by calling **(734) 224-7321**.

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.