



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XX • Issue 1 • SPRING 2019

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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
TC Clements	Trustee
Craig Montri	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 734-224- and the extension or email address shown)

Supervisor's Office.....	7322
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor ppirrone@bedfordmi.org	
Clerk's Department.....	7320
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk thershberger@bedfordmi.org	
Treasurer's Department.....	7342
Paul R. Francis, Treasurer pfrancis@bedfordmi.org	
Finance Department.....	7325
David Manning, Finance Director dmanning@bedfordmi.org	
Planning Department.....	7331
Karen Kincaid, Planning Administrator kkincaid@bedfordmi.org	
Building Department.....	7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official dkolar@bedfordmi.org	
Assessing Department.....	7353
Alan Matlow, Lead Assessor amatlow@bedfordmi.org	
Ordinance Department.....	7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor dcecil@bedfordmi.org	
Trustee's Office.....	
TC Clements tclements@bedfordmi.org	
Craig Montri cmontri@bedfordmi.org	
Rick Steiner rsteiner@bedfordmi.org	
Nancy Tienvieri ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org	
Fire Department.....(734) 847-2359	
Adam Massingill, Fire Chief amassingill@bedfordmi.org	
Sheriff's Department Bedford Township Non-Emergency 734-847-6146	
Emergency.....	911
Monroe County Non-Emergency (734) 243-7070 (Bedford Substation) Detective/Sergeant.....	7315
Detective.....	7316
Deputy.....	7318

Township Offices Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays:

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

Graphic and Printing services provided by Bedford Township residents



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone • Bedford Township Supervisor

Building a Greener Tomorrow..... TODAY!

The current master plan for Bedford Township contains an important Sustainability Section under Community Goals. The goal is to develop initiatives and policies to conserve energy and promote a healthy environment. This goal encompasses a wide range of issues that among others, includes:

- Promoting green technology
- Preserving farmland and protecting natural resources and open spaces
- Protecting water quality and resources
- Ensuring the livability of our neighborhoods
- Creating opportunities for residents to walk and bike safely

This administration has been working steadily to address these issues. Successful examples to date include greening up our Township Hall by replacing all lights including exterior lighting with remarkable, energy saving LED's. We are also working on a plan to zone the township heating and cooling systems to help decrease energy usage during hours when the township is not open. Not only are these environmentally important steps but they will save the Township valuable dollars that can be better used elsewhere.

Our tire collection at the Township Hall last spring was a huge success, a big Thank You to all who participated. We were hoping to add a second location to our Tuesday recycling bins at the Township Hall, but after discussions with **Dan Rock** of **Monroe County Health Department**, we found it has become too expensive due to increases in the cost of the actual recycling process of various materials. Please keep in mind the Monroe County Health Department pays for the recycle bins, hazardous waste days and they covered the cost of the tire removal. Nonetheless, we will continue to search for affordable and effective ways to provide this service to our residents.

Our Ordinance Officer has been diligently at work to update old ordinances from the 1960's and include policies that were heretofore not included in the ordinance and, thus, not legally enforceable. The updated ordinances will

allow the officers to more effectively eliminate blight and enforce compliance with policies that benefit our township residents and businesses.

The **Bedford Park Board** has promoted open spaces and protection of natural resources by providing areas not only for play and sports but also natural areas of native plants that attract wildlife and beneficial pollinators so necessary for our food crops as well as for residents seeking places to enjoy nature. We look forward to adding even more such spaces in our community.

The **Bedford Library** will soon be installing a new energy management control system that will reduce heating and cooling costs. The library is always looking for ways to cut energy costs and recycle.

Looking to the future, we believe that community education and involvement is vital to the success of our community goals. We are in discussions with groups and individuals to develop a framework for bringing our residents and businesses information and practical ideas to help further our goals. Some specific strategies we are seeking to implement include:

- Reduction and reuse of plastics
- Increase in community recycling
- Increase in community use of energy efficient materials
- Reduction of invasive plant species such as the ever-increasing tall reed grass (phragmites)
- Increase the use of easy to maintain native vegetation and thus increase the numbers of needed pollinators
- Seeking funding to increase and create connective sidewalks and biking lanes
- Elimination of blight

Admittedly, these are ambitious strategies. Stay tuned for further updates. With help from our community we can start today to lead the way for a greener tomorrow in Bedford Township Michigan. ■

Don't Be Fooled!

The Clerks Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



Predators and their scams are out there. Stories of victims who have been duped can be heard daily. Below is a list of the TOP 10 SCAMS and some tips on how to keep yourself safe.

1) MEDICARE/HEALTH INSURANCE - Someone may pose as a Medicare representative to get personal information or they may offer bogus services and use the information you have provided over the phone to bill Medicare and keep the money. Before giving out information call Medicare to verify a caller. If you have questions contact: www.medicare.com or call (800)-MEDICARE (633-4227).

2) COUNTERFEIT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS - This scam may prey upon individuals seeking better prices on prescription drugs, usually online. Beware of sites that don't require a prescription or don't have a licensed pharmacist you can contact. Note the **FDA** or **DEA** will not contact individuals and demand money.

3) TELEMARKETING/PHONE - Scammers call your home, using high-pressure tactics to solicit money for fraudulent investments, insurance policies, travel packages, charities and sweepstakes. These operations will ask for such information as your social security number, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal information. The victim's information then may be turned over to other schemers looking for any easy victim.

4) GRANDPARENTS SCAM - A grandparent receives a frantic call from someone claiming to be their grandchild. The scammer typically begins the conversation with a "Hi, Grandma do you know who this is?" When the mark replies back with a name, the scammer then assumes their identity. The "grandchild" has been involved in some unexpected financial trouble whether it be with the law, emergency car repairs, or while travelling abroad. The con artist then asks for the money typically through Western Union or MoneyGram, which don't always require identification to pick up. The call sometimes will end with a plea not to embarrass them by calling their parents.

5) IRS TAX SCAM - Scammers are able to alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS badge numbers. They often leave "urgent" callback requests. The caller may demand money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. These con artists can sound convincing when they call.

The IRS Will Never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue involving bills or refunds.
- If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the **IRS** and asking for money, call the **IRS** at **1-800-829-1040**.

6) SWEEPSTAKES/LOTTERY SCAM - A call or online solicitation claims that you were automatically entered in a sweepstakes you've never heard of. Or, a person contacts you and says they have a winning state lottery ticket,

but needs your help paying an upfront fee to collect on it. Rule of thumb, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

7) TECH SUPPORT SCAM - An unsolicited phone call, email, or pop-up window comes from an individual claiming they work for Microsoft, Apple, or a security software company. The victim is then fooled into either downloading a fake anti-virus, or an actual virus, that opens the computer and gives any information that may be on it to the predator. The "anti-virus" may cost a large amount of money. Or a caller may ask for a gift card, cash-reloaded card or wire transfer to help "fix" your device.

To Stay Safe Online:

- Never give out usernames or passwords over the phone.
- Read warning messages and emails carefully. Emails filled with bad grammar and misspelled words are often a telltale sign of a scam.

8) MAIL - Fraudulent prize and sweepstakes operations will mail materials to a larger audience, relying on potential victims to return a postcard or call to indicate an interest. The mailings often look official, with seals, claims of authenticity, extensive personalization (for example, repeating the recipient's name in the text of a letter) and they make a request for the recipient to submit a small fee to cover "postage or handling charges". Be assured, if you send the fee, you will never receive the grand prize or sweepstakes winnings.

9) SWEETHEART - An individual meets a potential mate on a dating website. The match claims to live in another part of the country or to be abroad. In an attempt to get to know you better they suggest corresponding through private email or an outside chat app. As the relationship progresses a face to face meeting is never possible but a sob story arises in which money is needed. They ask you to wire them money or send gift cards, all the while promising to pay you back.

10) DOOR-TO-DOOR - Often the scammer will gain entry into the home by posing as a utility worker or official who then keeps the victim distracted while an accomplice burglarizes the home. It is unwise to allow strangers entry into your home, but if you do, ask for identification so you can contact their business/company to be sure they are legitimate. In Bedford Township, all peddlers and solicitors are required to obtain and carry with them a permit before they can go door-to-door. A list of individuals with permits can be found on our website www.bedfordmi.org or by calling the **Bedford Township Clerk's Department** at **734.224.7320**.

When someone calls, emails you, sends a letter, or visits you with an offer that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. For more information on scams or to file a complaint of a scam you can also visit the **Federal Trade Commission's website** at www.ftc.com. If you find yourself a victim of a scam the best action to take is to contact the **Monroe County Sheriff's Department** at **734.243.7070**. If someone comes to your door and you believe they may be trying to harm you or steal from you call **9-1-1**. ■



THE BEDFORD PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Floods in Bedford Township?

For most Bedford Township residents, thoughts of flood disasters are probably the last thing on most minds. Yet floods can and do happen in our relatively flat community. Bedford Township is crisscrossed by many public and private drains and creeks. Most of this drainage system is natural and some of it is manmade. During periods of heavy rain, this drainage system can become overloaded, and floodwaters often spill over the banks. The most severe flooding in Monroe County occurs near areas around several rivers that traverse the county, and along the Lake Erie Shoreline. The rivers are the **River Raisin** and its tributaries, the **Huron River** and **Plum Creek**. Communities that are most affected by flooding of these rivers include **Dundee Township**, the **Village of Dundee**, **Raisinville Township**, **Monroe Charter Township**, **Frenchtown Charter Township** and the **City of Monroe**. **Bedford Township** is generally more affected by urban flooding from runoff during heavy downpours. During heavy rain events, the Monroe County Emergency Management Division will issue flood warnings by notifying the local broadcast media.

Flooding in Bedford Township is generally not a problem unless your home is located in or near a 100-year flood plain. What many homeowners don't know is that standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flooding.

Since 1981, Bedford Township has participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP. By participating in this program, many homeowners in Bedford Township are eligible for flood insurance coverage through their insurance agents. In addition, because Bedford Township participates in FEMA's Community Rating System and adheres to stringent flood plain management practices, homeowners receive an automatic percentage discount on flood insurance premiums.

Through an initial study completed in 1981, FEMA identified many areas in the community that were susceptible to flooding. The flood boundaries are defined as 100- year and 500-year flood zones. The 100-year flood zone, or Zone A is an area along either side of a stream that will likely flood during a heavy storm. The 500-year flood zone is a much wider area that extends beyond the 100-year flood zone and would flood during a very heavy storm that happens less frequently.

On October 2, 2014, FEMA adopted revised flood maps that may affect properties that were not in a flood zone but now may be under the revised maps. Some properties that were once in a flood zone may have been removed. It is advisable that property owners review the new maps to determine the current status.

There may be existing homes in Bedford Township that are in a 100-year flood zone that do not have flood insurance. This could be because the home existed prior to Bedford Township's involvement with the NFIP. When these homes are sold or refinanced, the lending institutions are required to determine if the home is in a 100-year flood plain. If it is, they must inform the homeowner or buyer that flood insurance is mandatory.

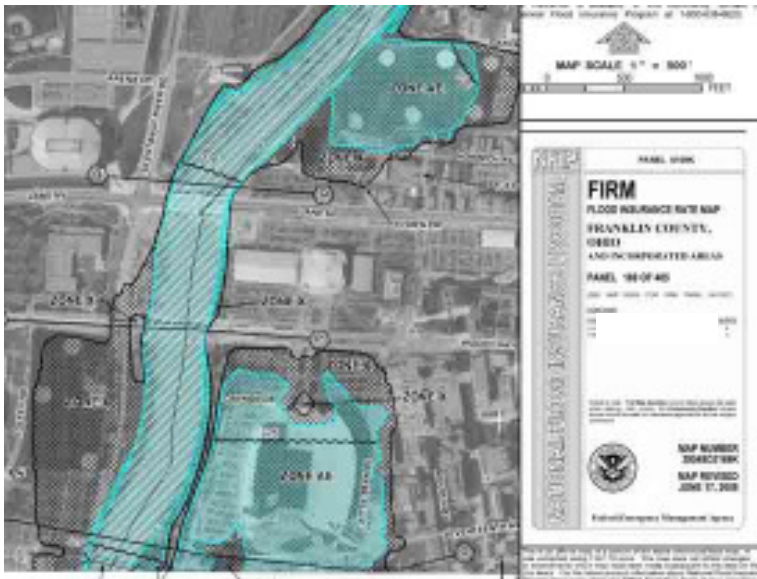
If a home is located in a 100-year flood zone, there are protective measures that can be taken to flood proof the structure and reduce the risk of damage. Furnaces, water heaters, laundry appliance and electrical panel boxes should be relocated to an area that is not prone to flooding. In the basement, floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed. It is also a good idea to keep valuable items out of flood prone areas or at least make them easily accessible if flooding is expected. In many cases, there will not be ample warning time to move essential items from the flood prone area, so you may want to permanently store them in another area.

When there is extensive urban runoff and small stream flooding, there are several safety factors to keep in mind.

1. Pay close attention to special storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
2. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream by foot or by car since undercurrents from fast moving water can knock you down or even move a large vehicle.
3. Do not allow children to go near flooded areas, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
4. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and move to higher ground.
5. Evacuate flood hazard areas in time of impending flood or when instructed to do so by emergency personnel.
6. Shut off electric circuits at the electrical panel. If this is not possible, disconnect all electrical appliances. Also, shut off all gas valves and water services in the home.

If you suspect that your home may be in a flood hazard area, Bedford Township maintains copies of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the Township. Township personnel can assist you in reading the maps, provide you with basic information found on the map panel, assist in locating your subject property on the map and, if needed, provide flood insurance information as well. Staff can:

- 1) Provide basic information found on a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that is needed to write a flood insurance policy,
- 2) Provide non-insurance rating information that appears on the community's FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM),
- 3) Provide information about flood problems other than those shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM),
- 4) Provide information about flood depths,
- 5) Provide information about a special flood related hazard that does not appear on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and
- 6) Provide information about past flooding at or near the site in question. Bedford Township can provide you with instructions on what steps can be taken to reduce the potential for flood damage. We also maintain a supply of informational pamphlets on flooding in the Zoning/Building Department. ■



Notice to all Lenders, Realtors, Builders, and Property Owners

In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, Bedford Township provides assistance in helping you determine whether parcels located in the Township are affected by flood plains. It is important that you take advantage of this service prior to offering any property for sale or for construction. If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the Bedford Township Planning/Zoning Department at 734.224-7331. ■

Interesting Bedford Facts:

Do you know where or when the first Bedford Township Hall was built?

For the answer, please see page 4



Photo By: James E. Salisbury • Circa 1947

Bedford Park Board News

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

Wow, what a winter season we have had! Thank goodness Spring is almost here! We would like to start by extending a warm welcome to our newest member, **Carol Laurie**. Carol brings with her new energy and fresh ideas to our board and we are looking forward to working with her.

The **Bedford Trade Fair** will be held **March 9 & 10**, please stop by our booth and say hello. This is a great time for citizens to offer their input on ways they would like to see our parks improved or changed. We also welcome volunteers to sign up at our booth to assist this Spring and



Summer with weeding the **POLLINATOR GARDENS** and **MONARCH WAYSTATION** at Ansted Park.

If you can't make the **Bedford Trade Fair** and would still like to help please contact **Connie Velliquette** at 419.297.1977. As always, don't forget to visit our parks! They are always open.....*dawn to dusk!* ■

Property Tax Information At Your Finger Tips!

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



IF YOU ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS when preparing your **2018 Income Tax Returns**, you will need the amount you paid for property taxes during calendar year 2018. Remember: **SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS** for various improvements such as sewer or water lines, drains, roads, street lights, etc. are generally **NOT DEDUCTIBLE** for income tax purposes. If you file for a **2018 Michigan Income Tax Credit** on Form **MI 1040-CR** or **MI 1040-CR2**, the tax amount required for credit calculation is the total **2018 Summer and Winter Taxes** billed, regardless of when those amounts were actually paid. You can obtain that information in several ways: from your mortgage escrow statement (*if you have a mortgage escrow account*); from the actual paid tax bills, or by accessing the Township website at www.bedfordmi.org.

If you use the township website, click on the **Property/Tax Information** tab on the right side, then click **Tax Information Search under the Current Tax** on the left side of the page. The Tax Information Search screen will allow you to search by owner name, address or parcel number. You only need to fill in one of the fields. Then click Search, and the next screen may list several parcels. Click on the parcel you wish and the detailed tax information page will come up. Scroll down for the year and season (*winter and summer*) you need, then click on the plus sign (+) in front of the year. You will see the amount due, the amount paid, date it was paid, a breakdown of what was paid, assessed and taxable values, etc. This information can be printed for your records. If you have any questions or need help with the web page, please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342**.

2019 SANITARY SEWER RATE INFORMATION

Your quarterly sanitary sewer usage bill is comprised of three components: operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and debt service. The operations and maintenance component is calculated per thousand gallons of metered or estimated water consumption. The depreciation and debt service components are calculated on the single-family residential equivalents basis.

2019 Current monthly sewer disposal rates are as follows (billed quarterly):

Operations and Maintenance (per 1,000 gallons) -----	\$ 5.48
Depreciation (per Residential Equivalent (R.E.) -----	\$ 1.56
Debt Service (per Residential Equivalent (R.E.) -----	\$ 9.64

Average 2019 quarterly residential bill, based on a household of three is:

Operations and Maintenance (20,000 gallons)	\$109.61
Depreciation (3 months)	\$ 4.67
Debt Service (3 months)	\$ 28.91
Total Average Quarterly Residential Bill	\$143.19

(Continued Next Column)

SECONDARY WATER METERS

Please be aware that your sewer usage bill is based on your water usage as recorded by your water meter. If you are connected to the **South County Water System** and you are planning to water your lawn or fill your swimming pool, you should consider having a secondary water meter installed to monitor and record the water consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes (*i.e. lawn sprinklers, swimming pool, etc.*). Installing a secondary water meter will prevent your sewer usage bill from reflecting water gallons consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes. There is a cost for the secondary water meter and installation, but the potential savings in your quarterly sewer usage bill may help offset this cost. Contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579** for further information and specific details.

SWIMMING POOL INFORMATION

The **South County Water System** will fill swimming pools located in subdivisions within 300 feet of fire hydrants, or located on section roads within 300 feet of fire hydrants on the same side of the road as the pool. For more information please contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579**.

PLEASE NOTE: DELINQUENT TAXES

If you are unable to pay your property taxes by February 28, 2019, the Township Treasurer is required by law to transfer them to the **Monroe County Treasurer's Office** for collection proceedings. In order to protect yourself from the foreclosure process, you need to call the **Monroe County Treasurer's Office** at **734.240.7365** as soon as possible to discuss your specific situation. The **Monroe County Treasurer** can offer suggestions for emergency loans and grants, sources for legal assistance, partial payment arrangements, special resources for veterans and senior citizens, hardship extensions, etc. **PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE DELINQUENT TAXES** and run the risk of losing your home. Help is available for you, but **YOU** must take the initiative and call the **Monroe County Treasurer's Office**. ■

Bedford Beautification Committee Update

-Winter Kill-

Are newly dead branches on some of your woody plants this spring causing you to wonder if you should have wrapped those naked limbs in burlap (*or maybe heat tape*)? Don't be too quick to blame cold weather. Winter damage to plants hardy for this region is frequently due to other causes. Stressed plants don't over-winter well. The following tips may help prepare them better for next winter:

- Roots freeze faster than branches, so mulch well, especially for the first year or two after planting your tree or shrub.
- Plants take up water until the ground freezes. Water them well until then.
- Know your plants' preferred growing conditions and site them accordingly. Bear in mind winter sun angles and prevailing winds.
- Don't do major pruning in mid-fall. Instead, bring out those clippers in February and March, or after flowering for spring-blooming plants.
- Use plant-friendly products to melt snow and ice rather than salt.
- When buying new plants, look for winter hardiness rated at Zone 5 or colder.
- And spread those roots out when you put that new specimen in the ground. Cut back strangling and dangling roots on pot-bound specimens.



Then accept that early or late cold snaps, when trees and shrubs are either not hardened off yet or are emerging from dormancy, may take their toll on flower or even leaf buds. And hope for better luck next year. ■



Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

Happy Spring!!!

The first quarter of the year is always a busy time for the department. We recently completed our **2018 Annual Report** which is available on the Township Website for those interested in reviewing. We are very proud of our work in 2018 and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2019.

We are also gearing up for our **2019 Summer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)** course. Each year we run a course in May to train our new members in lifesaving techniques as Emergency Medical Technicians. This course is open to the public as well, anyone interested in certification as an EMT is encouraged to contact the department at **734.847.2359** for more information.



Chief Massingill

Lastly, we are excited for the challenges 2019 will bring for our department. Our overarching theme for 2019 will be **'The Pursuit of Excellence'**. Much of the transitioning and changes of the past few years have put us in a great position to deliver excellent service on a day-to-day basis. While we are proud of the effort of our members, and believe we deliver quality service to our residents, we know that there is always room for improvement.

This year the sweeping internal changes will slow considerably and we will spend a considerable amount of our time improving upon the services we are currently providing. You will likely see evidence of this in the amount of time spent at the training facility this year as we continue to develop our talented new members.

We will in-service the Quint ladder truck this spring which will return our fleet to full capability, improve upon our medical service model through an updated **Field Training Program**, completely update our Standard Operating Guidelines, and update our Strategic Plan. All of our efforts this year is with intent to provide the excellent service residents and visitors to our community deserve. ■

Have a Great 2019 Everyone!

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.

News From The Assessing Department

• Alan Matlow, MAAO • Christine Eichler, MAAO • Kelly Elmer, MCAO •
• Therese Vitale, MCAT • Pete Carey •

Are you a new resident, a long-time returning resident, or a resident that has moved into a different home in Bedford Township in the last year? We encourage you to verify with us that your **(PRE) Principal Residence Exemption** is in place for the current and upcoming tax year. With all the documents one signs at a closing, things can get missed.

If you have any questions or concerns about an upcoming real estate site review or your current **(PRE) Principal Residence Exemption**, please call the **Bedford Township Assessing Department** at 734.224.7353. For additional property information, visit our website at www.bedfordmi.org or the **Assessing Office**. Our office is located on the first floor of the **Bedford Township Government Center** at 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The office is closed on major holidays. ■

Budget Time In Bedford!

By TC Clements, Trustee / Park Board Liaison

It is budget time and as **YOUR** trustee I am beginning to work with my peers to develop our plans for the 2019/2020 budget year. Many of the things in that budget are multi year projects and the funds for those are already committed based on previous decisions and long-range planning prior to now. However, during the budget process we hear from all departments and boards in Bedford that receive funding through the township. As a collective group we then have to decide priorities on where and how money should be spent to improve services, avoid waste, staff effectively, and continue to maintain a healthy surplus of funds to safeguard our community in the event of emergencies, unforeseen expenses, etc.

Budget time is very important to me as **YOUR** trustee as this is the time that we set the pace and focus for the upcoming year. To best do that, we have to examine our long-range goals and balance them against our current needs. Additionally, we look at new ideas and opportunities that could help us save money, improve services, avoid waste, and aid our staff in doing their jobs better for you.

I write to you about this as I want you to know that if you have ever had an idea on how we can do better, now is the time to attend a board meeting and share your idea! I am always open to new ways for us to improve services and reduce costs. Often people think that more government is better government. Simply put, more is just more. More bureaucracy, more red tape, more delays, more rules, more regulations. We don't need more! We need better. We need to analyze our current income and expenses to find ways that we can be better, perform better, deliver better, listen better, and respond better!

I am here to be **YOUR** representative and voice during this budget process and encourage you to participate during our upcoming budget committee of the whole meetings. My commitment to you as **YOUR** trustee is to ensure a better government, better use of your tax dollars, and better oversight for our community...not more! ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

What's Happening At Your Bedford Branch Library?

- The annual **Travel With Friends** series is in full swing. Join us on **Sunday, March 10 at 2 pm** to **Cruise to Cuba** with **Mark and Nancy Bellaire**. Sunday, **March 24** you can visit **Machu Picchu** and **Peru** with **Brad**. Light refreshments are served during these fun and informative travel presentations, sponsored by the **Friends of the Bedford Library**.



Machu Picchu

- What if everyone read the same book and then joined together to talk about it? **One Book, One Community of Monroe County** aims to enrich the reading experience of everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, income, or the neighborhood they call home. Join us in reading **News of the World** by **Paulette Jiles**. We will be discussing this book at the AM Book Club meeting **Thursday, April 4 at 10:30 am** and a companion non-fiction title, **The Captured** by **Scott Zesch** at the **Just the Facts Book Club** on **Wednesday, March 27 at 11 am**. The community is also invited to attend viewings of companion movies: **Shane**, **Sunday, March 17 at 2 pm** and **True Grit** on **Sunday, March 31 at 2 pm**.

- If you have a toddler in your life, your library is the place to come to sing, dance, read, and play together. Check out our **Toddler Storytimes** on **Saturdays at 10 am** and **Playgroup** from **12 - 2 pm** for an opportunity for both toddlers and parents to socialize. Registration is recommended but not required.



- **Hamiltea!** - Join us for a tea party to celebrate the musical **Hamilton** from **1-3 pm** on **Sunday, April 7**. We will have trivia, games, and of course music, all while enjoying tea and light refreshments. Feel free to dress as festive as you would like. Registration is required.

- **Local Authors visit - Sunday, April 14 at 1 pm** at your library you'll get to meet local authors **Miranda Kruse** (*To Be Loved* series), **James Blaine** (*A Rope of Sand: Resurrecting the stories, people, and events that created the Confederacy*), and **Peggy Sue Brown** (children's books *Vivian Marie's Garden* and multiple titles with recurring character *Onlie*).

- Don't forget your library still carries paper tax forms. We have both Federal and State forms and instruction booklets. If you need something specific, our reference staff will find it online and print it for you. We don't charge for printing up to 15 pages of tax form materials.

- Stop in and see us at the **BBA Trade Fair** on **March 9-10** at the **Bedford High School**. We'll be in the new gym playing games and giving away prizes.

- For more information and to register for any of our programs, contact your Library at **734.847.6747** or via our website at <http://mymcls.com>. ■

Interesting Bedford Fact Answer

(From Page 2)



The first Bedford Township Hall was built in 1893 at 1106 W. Temperance Road, Temperance, (now site of Fire Station #1) at a cost of \$680.00

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2019/2020 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

- All meeting times are at 7:00 PM unless otherwise stated.
- All meetings are held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of 1976. Meetings are normally held at the Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182 unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The Library Advisory Board meetings are held at the Bedford Township Branch of the Monroe County Library System, 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182.
- Bedford Township Housing Commission meetings are held at the offices of the Ivor J. Lindsay Senior Housing Complex, 8745 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI 48182.
- The Township of Bedford will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings upon one week's notice to the Township of Bedford. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township of Bedford in writing. *Please address all correspondence to: Paul Pirrone, Bedford 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.