

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN • VOLUME XII • ISSUE 3 • FALL 2011



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We're on the Web
WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG

OR VISIT US AT THE:

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL

8100 JACKMAN ROAD • P. O. Box H
TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182

TELEPHONE: (734) 847-6791
FAX: (734) 847-7809

Walt Wilburn	Supervisor
Robert Schockman	Clerk
Sherri S. Meyer	Treasurer
Paul Francis	Trustee
Larry O'Dell	Trustee
Gail Hauser-Hurley	Trustee
James Goebel	Trustee
Dennis Kolar	Building Inspector
Chris Renius	Assessor
W. Thomas Graham	Attorney
Dennis Jenkins	Community Development Director

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: **Walt Wilburn**
Bedford Township
Supervisor

Dear Citizens of Bedford Township

MANY THANKS from the Bedford Township Road Committee (*Walt Wilburn, Larry O'Dell, and Paul Francis*) to all of the Citizens of Bedford who took the time to read the Summer Issue of the Township Newsletter and especially **THANKS** to the over 700 citizens who answered the survey. **All answers are valuable and important** and give the Road Committee a direction to proceed. Of the over 700 surveys returned, 75% were in favor of a Bedford Millage, 10% were absolute no's, and 15% were in favor only if certain conditions were met.

The Road Committee has set up Town Hall Meetings in order to answer questions raised in the surveys. The remaining meetings will be as follows:

- September 17, 10:00 am at Bedford Library
- September 21, 6:00 pm at Bedford Senior Center
- October 8, 10:00 am at the Township Hall
- The 5th meeting to be determined.

Please plan to attend any or all of the meetings to help clarify and get answers to your questions. Here are just a few of the questions raised in the surveys along with answers from the Road Committee.

1. Where do taxes from Monroe County go, and how is it spent?

This question has almost nothing to do with how roads are funded in Monroe County. The MCRC receives funds from the State of Michigan under Public Act 51, which are allocated to townships and municipalities based on a formula mandated by Act 51, which is based on population, miles of roads, etc.

2. The Monroe County Road Commission has been mismanaged for many years, and some people fear that road millage funds would go to the MCRC and Bedford Township would not get its fair share.

The Road Committee has been assured by the MCRC that normal road improvements and maintenance funds allocated to Bedford Township will not be reduced if this millage proposal is approved. The intended purpose of the millage is to **supplement MCRC funding** to Bedford Township, **not replace MCRC funding**. The Road Committee will closely monitor the adequacy and quality of work performed,

so that accountability and transparency of operations will be maintained – to help ensure that the Township funds are spent efficiently.

3. People who have voted for special assessment districts (SAD) are currently paying extra to have their roads repaired.

This is a true statement. There are currently seven (7) SAD's in the township. If a subdivision association wants to have their subdivision streets and drainage reconstructed, they will also have to go through the SAD process even if the millage proposal passes. What they will receive, if the millage proposal passes, is improved maintenance on the streets, such as crack seal, snowplowing, etc.

4. Many people believe that the reason roads are breaking down is due to inferior materials being used by the MCRC

According to a source at the MCRC, many of the official state approved asphalt mixtures (used in southeast Michigan) have not performed to the satisfaction of the state or the MCRC, and will be discontinued in November this year. Alternative asphalt mixes ("*Super Pave Mix*", *modified Ohio mix*, etc.) will be used in the future for paving work whenever possible. One of the goals in the Bedford Township Road Improvement Plan is to constantly monitor the quality of road maintenance and improvement projects, and because Bedford will be funding the work, Bedford can decide the quality of materials to be used in Bedford projects.

5. How will the proposed road millage benefit people living in subdivisions?

Because of Michigan laws, road commission dollars can be spent for work on subdivision roads – *if funds are available*. The MCRC does not have enough funds to properly maintain local roads, let alone subdivision roads – therefore, little if any routine maintenance is done by MCRC on subdivision roads. Reconstruction of subdivision roads must be funded by the Special Assessment District process, and many subdivisions in Bedford Township are. If the millage proposal passes, subdivision roads will receive routine maintenance in

(See **SUPERVISOR** - Page 2)

(SUPERVISOR - Continued From Page 1)

the same manner as other public roads in similar condition. Because the intent of the proposed millage is to supplement or augment the maintenance performed by the MCRC, millage funds will be available for road maintenance projects that MCRC does not have the funds to provide, such as crack sealing, snow plowing.

6. How has the township board reduced operating costs over the years? Some people believe that the township board has mismanaged or wasted their money.

The Township Board began to tighten the belt early on by redoing fringe benefits (*retirement*), holding the line for all raises and eliminating 5 positions within the Township. This was accomplished by merging jobs, using part-time assistance and re-doing job descriptions.

Expenses were scrutinized closely and for the record, the Library and the Fire Station was funded by a millage voted by the citizens, and are well used facilities that offer services to all.

Our roads are such an important part of our daily lives. They get us to the grocery store, to work, to the doctor's office, and to the gas station. They also get our kids to school, our parents to meetings, social events and volunteering. We need to find a solution that will make the best use of our monies and take care of one of our biggest problems. Nearly everyone in Bedford has a story about a tire or a tire rim. While that leads to good business for our tire stores, it doesn't help solve the road problem. Again, **OUR THANKS** for your time, commitment and participation. We all need to work together to make our roads safer. ■

The Bedford Township Parks Commission Needs You!

Help Us Decide on Priorities for Our Community Parks and Recreation!

Make Your Voice Heard!

Bedford Township's Park Commission is dedicated to providing parks and recreation opportunities for everyone in the community. Every five years the Commission prepares a five-year plan to improve and expand the Township's parks and recreation system. An updated plan makes us eligible to apply for state grants and also makes sure we offer the kinds of parks and programs that resident want and use.

But it's hard to tell what kind of parks or programs will be successful without hearing from you, the Township residents and park users. That's why we're asking you to fill out this survey and send it in. It will just take a couple of minutes to complete – just fill it out and drop it off at the Township Hall.

If you decide to mail this back then please use this survey form as a self-mailer with a stamp (*First Class Postage is required for delivery*) and return this as soon as possible.

By letting us know your preferences for the kinds of parks, equipment, and programs you would like to see, the Township can do a better job of providing the kinds of recreation that will be used and enjoyed by the community. The results of this survey will give the Commission the kind of input they need to make sure that you get the kind of parks and programs that you want and will use.

And don't forget that the Parks Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall. The meetings are open to the public and your participation and input in the recreation planning process is welcome and encouraged.



Bedford Township Parks Commission

2011 Parks & Recreation Survey

Question 1

Which of the following do we need (or need more of) in Bedford Township?

(check as many items that you think we need)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> BMX Bike Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion / Bandstand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Bocci Ball Courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Rifle/Archery Range | <input type="checkbox"/> Sled Hill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Skating Rinks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking Paths | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Swimming Pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball Diamonds | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighted Athletic Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skatingboarding Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes | |

Question 2

Which type of Park would you be most likely to visit? (Choose ONE only)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports parks with lighted athletic courts and Fields. | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor recreation center with gymnasium and classrooms. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature preserves with woods, hiking trails and quiet areas. | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose park with nature area, sports fields, and playgrounds. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small, neighborhood parks with play areas and benches. | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Park/ Splash Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Trails, walking paths and greenways. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park/Dog run area. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Question 3

Would you support a millage for the operation, maintenance and development of Bedford Township's Parks & Recreation facilities?

- Yes
 No
 Not Sure

Comments about Parks & Recreation in Bedford Township:

(Please clip here and mail today)



..... (Fold Here)

..... (Fold Here)

Bedford Township Park Commission
8100 Jackman Road
Temperance, MI 48182

First Class
Postage
Required

Bedford Township Park Commission
8100 Jackman Road
Temperance, MI 48182



The Clerk's Corner

By: Bob Schockman
Bedford Township Clerk

In the last edition of the township newsletter, I stated we would not be holding any more elections in Bedford Township until 2012. Since that edition was published, the Bedford Township Board has approved the wording to put a 1 mill road millage on the ballot for a November 8, 2011 election. This is the only item that will be on the ballot in Bedford Township. More information on this millage issue is printed in the Supervisor's section of this newsletter.

By the time this article is published, all of our permanent absentee voters will have received absentee ballot applications for this election. All they need to do in order to receive an absentee ballot is to sign and return the application. Once we receive the signed application, a ballot will be mailed out.

For residents who will be going to the polls to vote, you will be voting at the same polling location you would use for all other elections. Although we will be consolidating precincts for this election, just as we do for school elections, the only change is that for some precinct locations (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel, United Methodist Church, Bedford Library, Northwest Christian Church, and St. Luke's Lutheran Church*) there will only be one precinct at that location instead of two or three.

The reason we do this is to save on costs for elections where we expect a lower voter turnout and the ballot has only one or two issues on it. We only need to have programming done for 8 precincts instead of 14, and we will need fewer precinct workers, which will save the township

money in the cost of this election.

As a reminder, if you are not registered to vote but wish to vote in this election, please be aware you must do so **before** October 11, 2011 in order to vote in this Special Election. Michigan Election Law requires residents be registered to vote 30 days before an election in order to vote in that election.

On any election day (*and the days before*), my office receives many calls asking where to go to vote, what the polling hours are, and if they were registered to vote. While we are glad to take your call and answer your questions, you can also get this information by computer. Simply type in to your browser, **Michigan.gov/vote** which will get you to the state's website. On that site, by inputting the information requested (*your name and birth date or DL number and birth date*), you can find out if you're registered to vote, where you're registered to vote, what your precinct location is and even a map showing you where that precinct location is. This site will also show you a copy of the ballot you will be voting, if an election is scheduled. You also should have a voter ID card, listing your precinct location, in your wallet.

It is my goal to make sure that every Bedford Township resident, who is a United States citizen, have the information necessary to be able to vote in any election held in our township. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at **734-847-6791**, ext **123**, or my elections assistant at ext. **134**. ■

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By: Chris Renius, MAAO, Bedford Township Assessor

If your home in Bedford Township is currently for sale it may qualify for the Conditional Principle Residence Exemption if it meets the conditions outlined below. House Bill 4215 was signed into law on April 8, 2008 allowing for a Conditional Principle Residence Exemption and PA 96 enables a person who has established a new principle residence (purchased another home which will be the new principle residence, not a rented home or apartment) in the State of Michigan to retain a Principle Residence Exemption (PRE) on a property previously exempt as the persons PRE. The property must: 1). Not be occupied for any use, 2). Be for sale, 3). Have been exempt as owner's principle residence in previous years, and 4). Not used for any business or commercial use. The law became effective for the 2008 tax year and is not retroactive to previous tax years. To have the exemption for the 2012 tax year, the form must be filed with the assessing department on or before May 1, 2012. The July or December Board of Review **DOES NOT** have jurisdiction over these conditional exemptions. To qualify for the 2013 year, form #4640 must be filed with the assessing department on or before December 31, 2012 and an owner can get the exemption for no more than 3 years.

The December Board of Review will meet on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 to review clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact. This meeting allows the Board to apply Principle Residence Exemptions to

parcels that qualified but did not have the affidavit filed timely. Please check your 2011 winter tax bill to make sure that you are receiving this exemption if you believe that your property should be. This Board is also the last opportunity for someone to apply for a Hardship exemption for the 2011 tax year. There are many factors that are used in determining if someone qualifies for any tax relief in the current year. One of the factors with the greatest weight in determining if a property qualifies or not is one must fall below the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines as adopted by the State Tax Commission. Income for **EACH INDIVIDUAL** living in a home, regardless of whether or not they are an owner of the property, must disclose their income for the previous year by supplying a copy of the filed income tax returns to the Board of Review. There are many other qualifying factors that you can learn about by contacting the **Township Assessing Department** at **734-847-6791** ext. **153** and obtaining a copy of the Township Resolution disclosing the qualifying factors as well as an application for the Hardship Exemption.

The Township assessing information is available on the Township web site at **www.befordmi.org**. If you need a copy of the physical drawing of your home, map, etc. that is not available online, you can obtain the information from the Assessing Department. There is no charge for information on your own property. The Assessing Department's hours are from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday thru Friday except for holidays. ■



Dollar\$ & Sense

By: Sherri S. Meyer
Bedford Township
Treasurer

DUE DATE

We have had numerous calls about the due date falling on a weekend for sewer and water bills. When a due date for sewer, water or taxes falls on a weekend or a holiday you can pay your bill the next business day with no penalty.

SUMMER TAX BILLS DUE

We have been very busy in the Treasurer's Department collecting the 2011 Summer Tax Bills. The summer bill is due on or before September 14 without interest. On September 15 a 1% interest charge will be added to your tax bill and an additional 1% interest charge the first of each month thereafter. If you can't pay your entire bill we do accept partial payments. The interest and penalty after September 14 is only applied to the unpaid balance, so anything paid helps reduce the amount of interest and penalty added to the bill after the due date. We accept partial payments through February 28 with interest and penalty until we turn over our tax roll to the County Treasurer on March 1.

For our residents who use the Summer Tax Deferment, don't forget **THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT ANNUALLY** by September 14. Please call the **Treasurer's Department** at **734.847.6791** ext. **142** for the form and/or information regarding the deferment. By filing the deferment form, you still must pay your property taxes. The deferment form defers the payment of your Summer Taxes without any interest or penalties until February 14.

For residents who travel or go south for the winter months, don't forget you can have your tax bills automatically deducted from your checking or savings accounts. You may choose one of two dates for your Summer Tax bill payment and one of two dates for your Winter Tax bill payment. Forms are available in the Treasurer's Department or on our website at www.bedfordmi.org. If you have any questions please call the **Treasurer's Department** at **734-847-6791** ext. **142**. ■

BEDFORD PARK COMMISSION UPDATE

By: John Mohr, Pearl Albert-Green, Connie Velliquette, Paul Pirrone & Garnet Francis • Bedford Township Park Board

Enclosed with this newsletter (page 3), you will see a park survey sheet we are asking residents to fill out and return to us. As it says on the survey, your input is important to us to ensure we are properly equipping our parks to best meet your needs/wants.

Every 5 years, the Park Commission must submit a 5 Year Recreation Plan to Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, outlining what we have in our parks currently and what we would like to do to improve our parks over the next 5 years. By doing this, we will be eligible to apply for both Federal and State grants, to allow us to further enhance our park system. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and return, we do value your input.

Also, as we mentioned in the last newsletter, the board has been looking at installing a ½ mile trail (*1 mile total round trip*) at Ansted Park, located on Lewis Avenue, between Erie Road and Samaria Road, on the east side. This land was purchased several years ago, using millage money specifically designated for the purchase of land & improvements to the parks. The Park Board intends Ansted Park to be a "natural" park, with trails, and hopefully a pond and sledding hill.

The Township Board is currently constructing a new township cemetery on land next to Ansted Park, and they have agreed to let us "piggy-back" the installation of the trail, a parking lot and entrance at a substantial cost savings (*due to equipment, etc. already being on site*). The Park Board had a small amount of money left from the land purchase & improvements millage, which is what we are using to complete this project. It is expected to be done by September of this year, so we hope you will come and check out our latest trail. ■

By: Lois White
Bedford Branch Librarian



BEDFORD BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

It was a long hot summer and many residents took advantage of the cool library our summer activities set all records, so as we look toward fall we have planned many more activities for all ages. We have many book clubs, storyhours, movies, exercise you can go to our website at mymcls.com for the total list or stop in at the library and pick up a calendar of what's happening.

1 on 1 computer help (1st Friday of every month) 1-3pm

This is an open computer forum where attendees are invited to hone their skills, ask questions, and learn something new.

Computer Basics Level 1 (6 week course)

September 10, 17, 24 & October 1, 8, 15 • 10am-12pm

Registration Required, space limited

This class is intended for those who have very limited or no knowledge of computers.

Microsoft Office Word Basics (6 week course)

September 10, 17, 24 & October 1, 8, 15 • 2-4pm

Registration Required, space limited

This class is designed for those who have a computer but are still novices. We will examine how to use Microsoft Word 2007.

Everything Ebooks • September 22 • 10-11am, October 18 • 7-8 pm November 19 • 1-2 pm

Have questions about your eReader or considering purchasing one? Registration is requested.

Senior Moments Level 3 (5 week course)

October 20, 27 • November 3, 10, 17 • 10am-12pm

Registration Required, space limited

This course will include a variety of topics for home computer users to develop their skills. Registration is required

Gadget Showcase • November 17 • 6pm-8pm in the lobby

Looking to buy a new gadget for Christmas or want to know more about them? Come to our showcase and learn what e-readers and iPads are.

Creating Photo Gifts • December 3 • 10am-12pm

Registration Required/Space Limited

In this class we will create fun gifts using our digital photos. Bring your digital photos on a flash drive, CD, or bring your camera and USB cord.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 • Alternative Book Club • 6-7 pm

Looking for a non-traditional book club? Then this is the place for you.

Friday, September 23, 2011 • Bedford Anime Club • 5:30-8:30 pm

All things Anime. Movies, video games, special events, and more.

Friday, October 14, 2011 • Genealogy Club • 5:30-8:30 pm

Have questions about the Daughters of the American Revolution or interested in Daughters of 1812 or Daughters of Civil War?

Thursday, October 27, 2011 • Alternative Book Club • 6-7 pm

Looking for a non-traditional book club? Then this is the place for you.

Friday, October 28, 2011 • Bedford Anime Club • 5:30-8:30 pm

All things Anime. Movies, video games, special events, and more.

Friday, November 11, 2011 • Genealogy Club • 5:30-8:30 pm

Interested in Genealogy but don't know where to start?

Thursday, November 17, 2011 • Alternative Book Club • 6-7 pm

Looking for a non-traditional book club? Then this is the place for you.

Friday, November 25, 2011 • Bedford Anime Club • 5:30-8:30 pm

All things Anime. Movies, video games, special events, and more.

Join us for our autumn authors' series. On October 13, University of Toledo's Jane Bradley will speak about her debut novel. It explores themes of loss and hope and is loosely-based on a crime with a Toledo connection. On November 9 as Jack Michael, long-time Erie-Mason coach, will discuss his novel *Transfer Hero*. On December 14, Monroe County Library System's own Catherine Macaro will talk about her over 20 ethnic books for children. Each program begins at 7 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and signing. ■

BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE The Best Offense

When it comes to weeds in our gardens, undoubtedly the best offense is a really good defense. Weeds will always be with us as long as there are critters and the wind to carry and deposit seeds. However, a few timely defensive moves can reduce the problem to manageable proportions:

- First and foremost, **PULL WEEDS BEFORE THEY GO TO SEED**—after doing this for a couple of seasons you will see a dramatic decrease in the number of weeds that sprout in your garden.
- Mulch—it keeps the light away from seeds in the soil and makes it easier to pull out weeds that do manage to sprout. For vegetable gardens, lay down thick layers of newspaper between the rows, wet thoroughly and cover with mulch.
- Plant closely—nature hates a vacuum and will quickly attempt to fill up empty spaces with something (*more than likely with weeds*).
- Pre-emergence herbicides—for hard to reach spots, consider the use of pre-emergence herbicides such as Preen. This will not kill existing weeds but will prevent seeds from sprouting.

After doing all the above, you will still have some weeds to pull. But on the positive side, you are almost guaranteed some quality alone-time to gather your thoughts and enjoy the outdoors in peace. Happy gardening! ■



Bedford Township Image Committee

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



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**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
2011 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 & December
Board of Zoning Appeals	Meets 1 st Monday of each month
Cablevision Committee	Meets as needed
Economic Development Corporation	Meets 1 st Thursday of each month
Fire Commission	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • 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 1 st Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
Temperance Action Committee (TAC)	Meets 1 st Monday of Each Month • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lambertville Pride Committee	Meets 3 rd Monday of each month
Samaria Heritage Committee	Meets 2 nd 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: Walt Wilburn, Supervisor • 8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H • Temperance, MI 48182*. You may also contact **Supervisor, Walt Wilburn** by calling **(734) 847-6791, ext.121**.

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.