



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

VOLUME X • ISSUE I • SPRING 2009

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Points of Contact

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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

This long winter will soon be mellowing into a beautiful spring in Michigan. This is the time to get outside and take deep breaths of fresh air, count the Robins and renew your plan to improve the yard. Seriously, you can do the same thing looking out the kitchen window with a hot cup of coffee in hand, just in case the weather is still a bit nippy.

There are so many events going on in the spring, at least one of them is guaranteed to get your system in gear for the rest of the year.

- The **Bedford Business Association's Trade Fair** is a week earlier this year, so it's probably over by the time this newsletter reaches you. I hope you were able to spend some time there during the weekend and found some time to talk to your neighbors and friends and of course visit all the businesses that were there.
- **Bedford's Relay for Life** is scheduled for May 16 and 17, so the time to start getting involved with a team is now. This event is fast becoming one of the busiest weekends in Bedford. The goal for this year is 72 teams raising \$150,000. Cancer touches each of us in some way, so please join a team, help raise funds, donate to your favorite team, come and walk, or just attend the event. You will be amazed at the sheer number of people attending the survivor's walk, the luminary service or all the special laps and activities held during the 24 hour event. *See you there.....*
- **Samaria Days** is another June favorite for our Township. The date for this year is June 13. There will be a parade as well as a mile long garage sale. It's a great time to stroll and chat and sample some of the good food.
- This year the **Bedford Senior Center's Strawberry Fest** will be held on the same weekend as Samaria Days. So you can walk a mile and then be rewarded with fresh strawberry shortcake with ice cream. *Not to be missed... ..*
- Then **Summerfest** is right around the corner. Scheduled for June 18 through 21, this festival has all the right ingredients for a super time. There are games, contests, a parade, rides, and food galore.

And one more event every resident needs to be aware of.....

BEDFORD CLEAN-UP DAY has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm at White Park. Start planning your spring cleaning and be ready to take advantage of the day to get rid of odd stuff and dispose of unneeded items. This is a day for Bedford residents only...ID required and the service is free. ■



Passport Information Update

The following information was first published in the township newsletter in the spring of 2008 and I am repeating it as a reminder to long time residents and for those residents who either did not see that issue or are new residents. Bedford Township Hall has been a passport agency since October of 2003. We are delighted to be able to assist our residents as well as residents of other communities in acquiring a passport so that they can travel abroad.



The U.S. Department of State has now implemented a "passport card" in addition to the original "passport book". This new "passport card" may **ONLY** be used for land and sea travel to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. **It cannot be used for air travel.** It is a wallet sized card, and will provide a less expensive, smaller and more convenient alternative for those who travel frequently to the above destinations by land or sea. The fees are as follows:

Passport Card

	Adults-age 16/over (valid for 10 yrs.)	Age 16/under (valid for 5 yrs)
Passport Card Fee	\$20⁰⁰	\$10⁰⁰
Execution Fee	\$25⁰⁰	\$25⁰⁰
Total	\$45⁰⁰	\$35⁰⁰

As of the printing of this newsletter, the date by which you will be required to have a passport card in order to travel to and from the United States by land or sea is June 1, 2009.

The same information and photo will be required to be submitted as for a regular passport. You will fill out the application, submit a certified copy of your birth certificate, identification (such as a driver's license), and 2 passport photos. The fee for a regular passport is as follows:

Passport Book

	Adults-age 16/over (valid for 10 yrs.)	Age 16/under (valid for 5 yrs)
Passport Fee	\$75⁰⁰	\$60⁰⁰
Execution Fee	\$25⁰⁰	\$25⁰⁰
Total	\$100⁰⁰	\$85⁰⁰

The fees to the U.S. Department of State must be in the form of a check or money order for citizens who wish to apply for a passport at Bedford Township Hall. If you wish to have Bedford Township take your passport photos, a \$10⁰⁰ additional fee will be charged along with the \$25⁰⁰ execution fee. The \$25⁰⁰ execution fee and \$10⁰⁰ fee for photographs can be paid by check, money order or cash.

All minors under age 16 are required to have the consent of both parents or legal guardians in order to apply for a passport. For further information on this subject, access the U.S. Department of State's website www.travel.state.gov, or contact my office at (734) 847-6791, Clerk's Department.

If you are planning a trip outside of the United States, please allow at least 3 to 4 weeks processing time for passport applications. If you need a passport sooner than that, you may want to consider expediting your passport application. The U.S. Passport Service will "expedite" your application for an extra \$60⁰⁰ fee per application. With this extra fee, your passport application will be processed in 2 weeks.

Bedford Township's hours for accepting passport applications is Monday-Friday, 8:00 am til 5:00 pm. For any other information, you can go to our website, www.bedfordmi.org and "click" on passport information. From this site you can get general information or access the U.S. State Department's website. If you do not have internet access, please call me or one of my staff at (734) 847-6791. ■

Election News

By: Robert Schockman, Bedford Township Clerk

Odd numbered years (for example, 2009) are "off years" for township governments with regard to elections. The only regular election scheduled this year is the upcoming May 5, 2009 Bedford School Election, in which Bedford Public Schools will have one open school board position, and a ½ mill sinking fund millage proposal on the ballot. Incumbent Joe Gore is the only candidate running for that position. More information about the candidate and the millage proposal will be forthcoming in the Bedford School's newsletter as well as local newspapers. Bedford Township will also have a zoning referendum proposal on this ballot. Information regarding this issue will be published in the local papers as the date of the election approaches.

I also want to remind you, of how to check to make sure you're registered to vote or to check to see where you would go to vote. The easiest way to check, if you have a computer, is to go to our township website, www.bedfordmi.org, "click" on **Clerk** (located on the left side of the page), then scroll to the bottom of the page and "click" on **Voter Information Website**. This site will give you election information, tell you if you're registered to vote and/or where your precinct location is. If you do not have access to the web, just call my office, (734) 847-6791, and ask for the Clerk's Department. Either I or one of my staff will be happy to assist you.

I also want to remind you that **ALL** voters going to the polls will have to show identification in order to vote.

Examples of the approved types of identification are:

- **Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal identification card.**
- **Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state.**
- **Federal or state government issued photo identification.**
- **U.S. Passport.**
- **Current student identification with photo—**
from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education.
- **Military identification card with photo.**
- **Tribal identification card with photo.**

If you will notice, all of the examples mention a photo. Any ID needs to have a photo in order to be a valid form of identification for voting purposes. If the voter states that he or she does not have photo identification or did not bring it to the polls, the voter will be allowed to vote if he or she signs an "Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification". This form will be available at the polling location. The law requiring photo identification in order to vote is part of Michigan Election law enacted by the State Legislature in 1996 but not implemented until now. ■

Meet The Township Hall Staff

(Each issue we will spotlight a different staff member in alphabetical order)

Years employed at Township Hall: I have worked for the Township for 26 years.

Township Department: Treasurer's.

How long have you lived in Bedford: I have lived here for 35 years.

Favorite thing about Bedford Township: Bedford has a "small town" feel even though we have 30,000 residents. It is a friendly place to live where you know your neighbors.

Retirement Dream: My dream is to be able to spend the winter months in Florida or someplace warm with no snow!

What would you like people to know about you: Last summer I planted my first vegetable garden. I grew my own tomatoes and beans. The broccoli didn't come up so I am going to start earlier this year! ■



Sherri Meyer



Dollar\$ & \$ense

By: Sherri S. Meyer,
Bedford Township
Treasurer

The Treasurer's department has been really busy collecting the 2008 Summer and Winter Taxes. Residents certainly enjoyed the drive-thru window we have at our new township offices. We like it and are glad to see it getting so much use. It is especially nice in cold, snowy or rainy weather!

PERSONAL CHECKS

The Treasurer's Department will continue to take personal checks for taxes. However, if they are paid **AFTER THE DUE DATE** we will need cash, cashiers check or a money order. If you have any questions please contact the Treasurer's Department.

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS WITH ESCROW ACCOUNTS

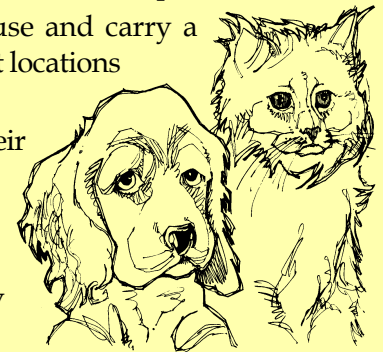
Due to the increase cost in postage, paper, etc., and in order to save dollars and be fiscally responsible, we will not send you a copy of your tax bill for your records. If you want information regarding how much your bank paid on your taxes or when they paid your taxes you can go to our web page at www.bedfordmi.org and click on property/tax info and search by owner, address or property number. You can also call our office at (734) 847-6791 and talk to someone in the Treasurer's Department. ■

BEDFORD PARK COMMISSION UPDATE

Pets in the Parks

As the weather gets warmer, you may want to get out in the fresh air and walk your pets in the parks. To help protect all park visitors, please follow these rules and regulations of our parks.

- Pets are permitted in all our parks provided they are on a leash no greater than six feet in length and under the immediate control of a responsible person. They shall not be allowed to disturb other park visitors.
- You are required to clean up after your pet. Pet owners are required to use and carry a container of suitable size to clean up after their pets. Plastic bags are provided at locations in the parks for your convenience:
- Owners/handlers are responsible and liable for the actions and behavior of their pets at all times.
- Nuisance barking and aggressive dogs are **NOT ALLOWED** and must leave immediately.
- Keep an eye on your pets at all times, do not let them out of your sight at any time for the safety of others in the park.
- Michigan law requires all dogs have a proper license, wear a collar and have an I.D. Tag.
- The Park Board is aware that an E. Coli problem is possible in the parks because of "*pet pollution*" getting on children's shoes and bodies while they are playing, causing severe reactions. It is the responsibility of pet owners to properly care for their animals waste. This issue has become a major problem in our parks, to the point that the board may have to stop allowing youth sports to hold events at the parks.
- If the above rules and regulations are not followed, the township ordinance department will be issuing tickets for violations. ■



THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Gardening Seminar

BEDFORD BRANCH LIBRARY • SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009 • 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 PM

WHAT: Gardening Seminar

Free and open to the public (*registration required*). Sponsored by the Bedford Beautification Committee

WHEN: Saturday, April 25, 2009 • 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

WHERE: Bedford Branch Library

WHO: Matt Ross, Horticulturist with the Toledo Botanical Garden, will speak on "Edible Landscaping".

Mr. Ross is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor's Degree in horticulture. He is currently completing his Master's Degree.

Mr. Ross is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker having served in a variety of roles, including landscape design, for two Michigan nurseries.



A second topic will be presented but has not been finalized as of the deadline for submitting this article.

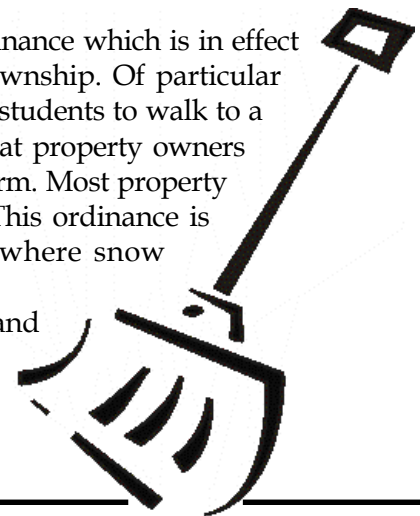
DETAILS: Bring a bag lunch as there will be a break between presentations. Beverages and cookies will be provided.

REGISTER: To register for this Seminar, please call Jan Sass at (734) 856-7243 or Diane Smith at (734) 856-8376. ■

A Reminder: Sidewalk Snow Removal

The Bedford Township Board would like to remind you of the Ordinance which is in effect requiring snow removal from sidewalks throughout Bedford Township. Of particular concern is school bus routing and pick up procedure that requires students to walk to a central pick up point within the subdivisions. 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 shovel their sidewalks without any intervention. This 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 from the receptionist, or can be viewed on the Township website at www.bedfordmi.org. ■





By: Lois White, Bedford Branch Librarian

YOUR MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM... *“Celebrating 75 Years of Library Service to Monroe County”*

Your Monroe County Library System is celebrating 75 years of Library Service to Monroe County during 2009. There will be programs and displays, plus incentives will be available from many businesses when you show your Library card.

- The Monroe County Library System and the Bedford Branch is partnering with *“Michigan Works!”* to help south county residents with employment assistance. The *“Michigan Works!”* staff will be at the Bedford Branch Library every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. to assist you. A copy of your work history and resume are requested.
- Federal and State Income Tax Forms are available to assist you in preparing your 2008 taxes.

Upcoming Programs:

- You must register to join us on Monday, March 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for **Investing Fundamentals**. Do you need accurate and reliable financial information to make informed investment decisions? With all the investment opportunities out there, who can you turn to for unbiased information? Join us as representatives from the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation will present **Investing Fundamentals**. This seminar will provide an overview of the financial markets and major exchanges; cover the fundamentals of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds; cover key investment firms; investing misconceptions and caveats, how to select a financial services provider; how to protect yourself from investment fraud; and discuss the three components for building your wealth. Optional one-on-one counseling will follow. Space is limited and participate in the individual counseling.
- Join us on April 6 and 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to continue your investing education. Representatives from the **OFIR** will return to present *“Principles of Structuring a Portfolio”*. This two-part class will provide you with valuable information to research a company, investigate a stock or mutual fund before investing, decide the right mix of investments for you, and build on the knowledge from **Investing Fundamentals**. You may register today by calling (734) 847-6747.
- The third annual **BIG READ** will be March 20 - April 29th. Utilizing a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, Monroe County Community College and the library, along with many other community partners, will attempt to get as many county citizens as possible to read *“The Great Gatsby”* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. There will be many fun and interesting activities throughout the month-long Big Read, including book discussions, a film festival, a trivia contest, a twenties Gatsby Tea (*with a visit from Amelia Earhart*), and a discussion panel. Check your Bedford Branch Library for more information! ■

Stop at the Bedford Branch Library to see all the many activities being offered!

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

By: Robert Schockman, Bedford Township Clerk

I have written on this subject before and yet there seems to be confusion each time a resident comes in with a petition to initiate a Special Assessment District. This confusion centers on the Townships involvement. and what we can and cannot do for the District. Generally, a Special Assessment District is composed of property and parcel owners within a given geographic area who wish to improve their road, add sewer or water service, or streetlights which will benefit each of the owners in that district. In each case the Township is simply a facilitator between residents of that district and either the road commission, drain commission, or utility.

We have, through the help of our attorneys and the (MTA) Michigan Township Association, come up with a method that is both fair and clear, in performing our task as facilitators. Residents in a geographic district come to the Township Hall to request a petition form, which they need to complete with the correct wording, which we will help them to do. They then must circulate the petition obtaining signatures from residents in that geographic area comprised of more than 50% of the land area, and 50% of the parcel owners.

Once we receive the petition and confirm it does indeed have valid signatures for more than 50% of the land area and parcel owners, the Township will schedule an informal meeting, and notify all the residents in the district, in writing, of this meeting.

At this meeting an estimate of costs is presented by our engineer. Up to this point there are **no** costs to the resident. If, after this informal meeting, there is enough interest to proceed, a public hearing is scheduled before the Township Board. Everyone in the district is again

notified in writing of this public hearing, and at this meeting the Township will vote for or against the establishment of the district. Should the Township Board vote to establish the district, **COSTS** begin to be incurred, which includes all engineering costs and legal costs to date. Residents in the district have until this first public hearing to add their name to the petition, or take their name off the petition. If enough property owners remove their names from the petition to cause the number of signatures to go below the required 50%, the petition is no longer valid and the process stops. However, once the public hearing is held and the district is established we must continue the process.

Thirty (30) days after the first public hearing, a second public hearing is held at which the tax roll is established. Again, all property owners in the district will receive notice by mail of this hearing. Once the Township board votes to establish the tax roll, the assessment is added to the tax roll for all of the owners of that district, and depending on whether the special assessment district is for road improvement, sewer or water lines, or streetlights, the actual installation/improvement is handled by that entity.

My goal in this article is to make it clear that the township and the Clerk's Department are the facilitators in the process and little more. I hope this explanation will help any township residents interested in a special assessment district gain some insight into what, we as facilitators, do.

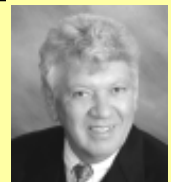
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (734) 847-6791. ■

We're at Your Service!!

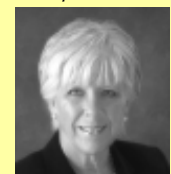
Periodically, it's good to remind ourselves, as well as all township residents, that the employees at Bedford Township Hall work for **YOU**. That's right, we work for you. Our goal is to provide excellent customer service to everyone we greet at the counters or talk to on the telephone. That doesn't always mean we can always give you an answer that you're happy with, it simply means we will try to give you the correct answer or give you the best service in the quickest time possible, with a smile. If you feel you have not received excellent customer service during your visit to the township office, please ask to speak to one of your elected representatives. We are more than willing to respond to any complaints or concerns regarding the service we provide. Please feel free to contact us in person or by telephone at (734) 847-6791. ■



Bob Schockman
Clerk



Walt Wilburn
Supervisor



Sherri S. Meyer
Treasurer

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

2009 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 Monday of each month at 7:30 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

- 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.
- Housing Commission meetings are held at the Ivor J. Lindsay Senior Housing Facility • 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.

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.

Bedford Township Image Committee

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



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