



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN • VOLUME XII • ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 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

After many months of study, it is the opinion of the Bedford Township Road Committee, a subcommittee of the Bedford Township Board, that the Federal Government and the State of Michigan acting through its County Road Commissions are currently unable or unwilling to find the resources necessary to adequately maintain its road, bridge and culvert (RBC) infrastructure. It is extremely critical that substantial action be taken NOW, or Bedford Township (BTS) will witness deterioration of its \$12,000,000 investment in RBC projects completed over the past seven years (2004-2010).

Over the last seven years an extreme effort was made to get the most out of every dollar spent to improve the roads in Bedford Township, by partnering with available federal, state and county (FSC) funding. This effort can no longer overcome the constant reduction in FSC funding that is diminishing the ability of the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) and BTS to perform the amount of road maintenance work that needs to be accomplished each year, to preserve our investment.

On March 28, 2011 hundreds of Bedford citizens attended a town hall meeting to express their outrage in the strongest possible terms that something has to be done to improve the roads in Bedford Township as soon as possible. One result of that meeting was a better understanding of how the State of Michigan funds its road maintenance and improvements, through gasoline and sales taxes, and how those monies are allocated to state, county and local roads. Of the nineteen cents (\$.19) per gallon gasoline tax, only six cents (\$.06) is allocated to county road commissions for the maintenance of county and local roads. None (\$.00) of the 6% sales tax on gasoline is allocated to roads. This allocation formula was established in 1951, and is obviously out of touch with today's reality. Michigan's road funding mechanism (*Public Act*

51) MUST be changed so that a long term solution for maintaining and improving roads throughout the State of Michigan can be implemented.

Simply stated, the condition of the roads in Bedford Township can not wait any longer for the state legislature to address these issues. Without additional funding for maintenance, Bedford Township's roads will crumble at an ever increasing rate before our eyes while we wait for the state legislature to act. This is an outrage, but it is also a statement of fact.

The Bedford Road Committee has decided to seek input from the citizens of Bedford Township as to how they wish to meet this challenge, and their willingness to support the proposed Bedford Road Improvement Plan (page 2). This is why the citizens of Bedford Township are being asked to complete the attached survey on pages 3 and 4. Please clip this survey form out, fold, apply first class postage (required) and return this survey by July 1, 2011 in person or via mail to:

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP ROAD SURVEY
c/o Bedford Township
8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H
Temperance, MI 48182-0607

Thank you for your time and cooperation in helping us find the best solution to this most difficult and important challenge.

If you have any questions please contact Township Supervisor Walt Wilburn at (734) 847-6791.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

The Bedford Township Road Committee

Walt Wilburn, Bedford Township Supervisor
Paul Francis, Bedford Township Trustee
Larry O'Dell, Bedford Township Trustee

Bedford Township Road Improvement Plan

A 10 Year, 1 Mill Tax Levy Dedicated to Additional Road Maintenance & Improvements in Bedford Township

What Additional Road Maintenance services are included in this plan?

PART I: Additional Road Maintenance

Additional millage funding would enable Bedford Township to increase road maintenance in the following areas (*in addition to road maintenance currently provided by the Monroe County Road Commission*):



- Dust control, Pot hole patching, Asphalt zone patching, Maintenance on stone roads (*spot stoning*), Blade scraping stone roads, Shoulder maintenance, Tree and Shrub removal, Roadside ditch clean out, Roadside clean up, Grass and Weed mowing, Catch basin and storm sewer maintenance, Guardrail maintenance, Show and ice control, Bridge and culvert maintenance, Increased coordination with Monroe County road crews working in Bedford Township
- **Part I Estimated Annual Cost: \$450,000**

Part II: Capital Preventive Maintenance Program

Additional millage funding would enable Bedford Township to develop and maintain a more consistent capital preventive maintenance program (*in addition to services currently provided by Monroe County Road Commission*), in areas such as the following:

- Crack Sealing (*more miles of roads each year*)
- Single Sealing (*more miles of road each year*)
- Asphalt Overlay (*at least one mile each year*)
- Special Assessment District Aid (*provide preliminary engineering services for potential improvement projects*)
- Engineering (*project design, oversight, materials testing, etc.*)
- Matching Funds for Federal Aid (*provide required matching funds for larger projects when federal funds become available*)

• **Part II - Estimated Annual Cost: \$450,000**

• **Grand Total - Estimated Annual Cost: \$900,000**

What will this Bedford Township Road Improvement Plan Cost ME?

Market Value of Your Home	Your Cost Per Year
\$200,000	\$100.00
\$150,000	\$75.00
\$100,000	\$50.00

Please complete Survey Form on next page and return by July 1, 2011. Thank You!

..... (Fold Here)

..... (Fold Here)

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BEDFORD TOWNSHIP ROAD SURVEY
c/o Bedford Township
8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H
Temperance, MI 48182-0607



The Clerk's Corner

By: Bob Schockman
Bedford Township Clerk

Election News

The May 2011 election is over, and although you have already seen or heard how the election turned out in the newspapers, listed below are the certified results of that election.

Bedford School Board candidate Mike Smith, won re-election to a four year term, beginning July of 2011. He was the only candidate on the ballot, although another School Board position was open. Six Bedford Township residents filed to be write in candidates, and the top vote getter was Wayne Meehan, who won with 415 votes. He will take office in July of 2011 as well.

The Monroe County Intermediate School had placed a renewal of a county wide Technology millage proposal on the ballot, .9866 mills for 5 years, beginning in 2012. In Bedford, that proposal passed with 2,724 yes votes to 1,000 no votes, and easily was approved in the rest

of the county as well. Our voter turnout was almost 17% and the majority of the ballots cast were absentee ballots.

At this time, Bedford Township has no more elections scheduled for 2011, the next election scheduled is a Presidential Primary election, the fourth Tuesday in February (*unless the Republican and Democratic parties decide to hold a caucus instead*).

After that we will be very busy with the normal presidential election year elections, with the expectation we will be watching a ton of campaign ads on television, radio and in the news in 2012.

Finally, I would like to thank our election inspectors and chairmen for all of their hard work on Election Day. They did a great job, as usual, and I truly appreciate each and every one of them. ■



The Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery

This is the latest information, in my effort to keep residents up to date on the plans for the new Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery, located on Lewis Avenue, near Samaria Road.

The Cemetery Committee has been meeting monthly, with a goal of having the first phase of the cemetery complete and ready for use by the fall of 2011.

In April, bids were sent out and are now being reviewed by the township engineers before being brought to the Township board for approval, in mid-May. Once everything is approved, work will start on the site this summer.

This cemetery will have provision for graves upon which a monument will be permitted to be placed, at a cost of \$750.00 for Bedford residents (\$1,125.00 for non-resident), flush monument grave sites at a cost of \$600.00 for Bedford residents (\$900.00 for non-

resident), cremation grave sites at a cost of \$300.00 for both residents and non-residents, an area solely for infant graves costing \$300.00 for both residents and non-residents, and another area for indigent burials.

In the future, the committee is planning on having one or more niche walls, which will provide above ground burial for cremains.

Currently, the township is offering graves for purchase in this new cemetery, at a reduced fee of \$500.00 for either a monument grave site or a flush monument grave site, and cremation grave sites for \$200.00. This presale pricing is in effect until June 30, 2011.

If you're interested in purchasing grave sites in the new cemetery, stop in at the township hall, in the clerk's department (*first office area on the right*) where we can show you a layout of the cemetery, let you pick the site, pay the fee, and you will be owners of grave sites in the new Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery. ■



Summer's Here....and So Are The Door-To-Door Solicitors

As the title suggests, summer is on its way, and with the warm summer days, door-to-door solicitors and peddlers start popping up. Bedford Township has an ordinance (No. 78) which regulates this activity, and requires **ALL persons, firms, corporations or other entities** (*with the exception of non-profit or non-business organizations, such as Boy/Girl Scouts, religious groups, political parties or candidates*) to apply for a license at the township hall before they can solicit or peddle.

So, when solicitors or peddlers knock on your door, the first thing to do is ask "Do you have a Bedford Township permit to solicit?" If you get **ANY** answer other than "Yes", and they can show the permit to you (*it's yellow in color, listing their name, item being solicited, permit dates, and signed by myself or one of my assistants*), then they are soliciting illegally.

If you can, get as much information as possible about their company (*ask for a business card*) then call the township hall, 734-847-6791, ext 122 or 134 during weekday business hours (*8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*), or the Monroe County Sheriff's Office non-emergency phone number (734) 240-7070 if it's after business hours, to report them. The only way we can control or stop these unlicensed solicitors is to ticket and fine them, which will make these persons/companies realize they do not have the right to come into our township and bother our residents. By requiring a license, we can also control the times during which they can solicit, as well as make sure they are a legal business entity.

Let's work together to try to make our streets and neighborhoods as safe as possible for everyone. ■



Dollar\$ & Sense

By: Sherri S. Meyer
Bedford Township
Treasurer

2011 Summer Tax Bills

The 2011 Summer Tax bills will be mailed out July 1. The Summer Tax bills are payable by September 14 without interest. On September 15 a 1% interest charge will be added to your tax bill and an additional 1% will be added the first of every month thereafter.

Tax bills can be paid at the Bedford Township office, the drive-thru window, by mail or by using our drop slot. You may also pay your tax bill at Fifth Third Bank in Lambertville and Citizens Bank in Temperance.

Senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities may fill out

a Summer Tax Deferment if your household income is \$40,000 or less. The deferment form must be filled out every year before September 14. By filling out the deferment form you must still pay your property taxes. The deferment form “defers” your taxes without any interest or penalties until February when your winter taxes are due. If you qualify you can file the 1040CR tax form by February 14 and extend paying your summer and winter taxes until you receive your income tax refund from the State of Michigan. Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer’s Office at 734-847-6791 ext. 142 for the form and/or information regarding the deferment.

Where Do My Tax Dollars Go?

Here is a breakdown of taxes collected for Bedford Township under the heading of “BEDFORD TWPTAX” on your 2010 winter tax bill and how it was disbursed.

Bedford Township General Levy.....	0.7918 Mills.....	\$ 780,705.20
Library Debt (voted).....	0.7185 Mills	\$ 708,433.24
Fire Levy (voted).....	0.8980 Mills.....	\$ 885,418.53
Transit Levy (voted).....	0.2464 Mills.....	\$ 242,949.07
Total “Bedford Township Tax”.....	2.6547 Mills.....	\$2,617,506.04

Also under the heading of “BEDFORD POLICE” on the 2010 winter tax bill:

Bedford Police (voted)	0.4000 Mills	\$ 394,389.10
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Sewer & Water Information

Please note that we have two separate systems for billing water and sewer so you will receive two bills, a water bill and a sewer bill. Because they are two separate systems we need two checks, one for water made out to South County Water and one for sewer made out to Bedford Township Sewage. Water and Sewer bills are mailed quarterly. The base fee for water use for a residence is \$32.36 for the first 3,000 gallons plus \$3.12 for each additional 1,000 gallons used. The sewer

bills have \$14.16 per quarter plus \$3.91 per 1,000 gallons used.

Summer is coming and if you are planning on watering your grass or filling your swimming pool you may want to consider having a secondary meter installed. Having a secondary meter can reduce your sewage bill. There is a cost for the meter. Please contact South County Water at 734-847-0579 for further information. ■

BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

LET THE SUNSHINE IN

What a dreary, wet spring! Even the long awaited greening up of the landscape has not been quite as thrilling against a gray backdrop. But yellow daffodils and forsythia have been like bursts of welcome sunshine for the rain-weary. Yellow and yellow-green foliage can have the same effect all summer.

For your shady garden, consider the bright lime green leaves of several coral bell (*Heuchera*) and foam flower (*Tiarella*) cultivars and hybrids. Golden or gold-striped Hakone grass (*Hakonechloa*) provides a fountain of sunshine. Then there are the yellow edged or streaked hostas plus the all-gold/green hostas such as giant ‘Sun Power’.

Overcast days in your sunny garden look less gloomy with golden oregano and thyme creeping about the taller golden Queen of the Meadow (*Filipendula*) topped with white flower plumes, gold leaved spiderworts (*Tradescantia*), hyssop (*Agastache*) and the lime leaves of Japanese spirea ‘Lime Mound’ or ‘Magic Carpet.’



A winter garden seems warmer with golden evergreens such as false cypress (*Chamaecyparis*), Japanese yew ‘Bright Gold’ and golden varieties of arborvitae and juniper. ■

By: Lois White
Bedford Branch Librarian



BEDFORD BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

Come and join us this summer for **FREE** fun at your Monroe County Library System Bedford Branch Library following are many activities to choose from stop in or visit online to register for any of these program <http://calendar.monroe.lib.mi.us>.

Tuesday, June 21 • Summer Reading Program Kick-off.

Tuesday: 6:30 pm : Summer Reading Program

Wednesdays:

1:00 p.m. : Summer Reading Movie

Thursdays:

10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Pre School Storytime

1:00 p.m. - First and Second Grade Book Club

2:00 p.m. - Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Book Club

Fridays:

10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Tot Tales

Saturday • June 25 - July 23 (No program on July 2), 10:30 a.m. Passport to Fun.

You may register for the above programs by visiting the Library Website, or calling the Bedford Branch at 847-6747.

Summer Reading Club for Adults • June 20 - July 22, 2011. Why should the kids have all the fun? Join us for this special summer reading club for adults. It's easy! Fill out an entry form for each book you read this summer, drop it in the entry box.

Thursday • May 26, 2011 • 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. • Alternative Book Club. Looking for a non-traditional book club? Then this is the place for you.

June 6, 2011 • August 31, 2011 Teen Summer Reading Program Starts.

Friday • June 10, 2011 • 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. • Bedford Branch Library Genealogy Club.

Sunday • June 26, 2011 • 12:00 Noon - 8:00 p.m. • Bedford Branch Library Anime Club Convention. All things Anime, Manga, and Japanese related combine in one day of Anime fun.

Friday • July 22, 2011 • 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. • Bedford Branch Library Anime Club. All things Anime. Movies, video games, special events, and more.

Friday • August 26, 2011 • 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. • Bedford Branch Library Anime Club.

1 on 1 Computer Help • First Friday of every month from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. This is an open computer forum where attendees are invited to hone their skills, ask questions, and learn something new about technology. Bring your laptops or other devices you want help with.

MI Works! • Second and Fourth Thursday of every month from 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon. Michigan Works! will be at the Bedford library every other Thursday to provide you with information to get the job you desperately need. Currently there is no need for registration. Just walk in during the times specified.

Girls Night Out Club • Third Wednesday of every month from 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Are you looking for a relaxing night out with friends? Join our book club as we share great titles filled with fun and laughter. This club is for **ADULTS ONLY!**

Grocery Shopping on a Budget • Wednesday, June 29 at 7:00 p.m. Are you frustrated with the cost of groceries? **Paula Wethington** from **The Monroe Evening News** and **Monroe on a Budget** will share her grocery-shopping tricks and tips. ■

BEDFORD PARK COMMISSION UPDATE

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

Lots of great things are happening at Bedford's parks. To start out with, all the parks are open, including the skateboard park and disc golf course at Parmelee Park. We are putting in new mulch at all the playgrounds, stone on the driveways, and adding stone at the walking trail at Indian Creek. The X-Waves at Carr and White will be up and functioning, and we are looking at a new swing set at Indian Creek.

This year, the Park board is looking at the possibility of putting in a basic walking trail at Ansted Park, located at Lewis and Samaria. We hope to have it completed by mid to late summer, depending on the required permits needed from MCRC and related costs.

The **Civic Club** is holding their annual **Summerfest Celebration** on **June 16-18**. They use a portion of **Parmelee Park** for their festivities.

We are also involved in the upcoming 175th Anniversary of Bedford Township, assisting with some of the many events scheduled for the week of July 5-9. The last **Bedford Walk** is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, walking from the **High School** on Jackman Road to **Carr's Grove Park** on Lewis Avenue. If you're interested, be at the high school at 6:00 pm with your walking shoes.

You might even win a prize at the end of the walk!

Later that evening will be the annual Fireworks display in honor of our Anniversary Celebration. Be sure to mark Saturday, July 9 on your calendars. The fireworks will be held behind the Bedford Community Stadium, as usual, beginning at dark (*between 9:30 and 10:00 pm*). This promises to be a great event.

Because of the cost of this year's fireworks display, our board has asked businesses in the community for donations. Several businesses/companies have donated, but we would be glad to accept donations from any residents who wish to give. If you would like to donate, make the check payable to: **Bedford Township Fireworks-175th**, and mail or drop off at **Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman, Box H, Temperance, MI 48182**. If you mail a check, please put to the attention of the **Clerk's Department** on the envelope as well. We will be putting a thank you ad in both the Bedford Press and Bedford Now the week of the event, with the names of everyone who donated.

The Bedford Township Park board is looking forward to a great summer and fall at all of our parks. Come and join us! ■

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 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.