

THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

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Walt Wilburn • Supervisor
 Robert Schockman • Clerk
 Sherri S. Meyer • Treasurer
 Paul Francis • Trustee
 Larry O'Dell • Trustee
 Rick Steiner • Trustee
 Dennis Steinman • Trustee
 Dennis Kolar • Building Inspector
 Chris Renius • Assessor
 W. Thomas Graham • Attorney
 Dennis Jenkins • Planning Coordinator

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, Township Supervisor

Supervisor's View of the Township

As an elected official, it's my job to be positive, supportive, and aggressive about making Bedford Township a place that everyone wants to live in, do business in, and visit. I can say that being positive, supportive, and aggressive about Bedford keeping pace with changing times is the easy part of my job. The following items are my views on what is being talked about around the community.

Some would say, "Our roads are in terrible shape," and they would be so right. Some of our roads have been in rough shape for many years and some roads are likely to still be in rough shape for a while. The available funds are being stretched and leveraged as far as possible to repair the most roads in any given year. This past year (*because we planned ahead and were ready when grant funds were available*), our Township received an additional 2.8 Million Dollars to repair a road.

Some would say "Bedford has an abundance of mosquitoes." and they would be right again. However, Bedford is the only Township that provides pellets to control mosquito larvae for our citizens plus an aggressive mosquito spraying. None of the surrounding Townships offers pellets, so we inherit a few swarms of mosquitoes that don't know where the Township lines are. Everyone should pitch in and assist with their own property. Eliminate all standing water that you possibly can and use additional sprays from the hardware store to assist with spraying your property that is unreachable from the road.

Some would say "Bedford doesn't need a new Township Government Center." and they would be incorrect. Daily I see the staff struggling with information that is not easily accessible and trying to cope with phone calls with another staff person 2 feet away trying to handle phone calls also. The current Township Hall was built in 1966. William Winson was Supervisor, and the population of Bedford Township was approximately 16,000 people. Today, we have a population of over 30,000 citizens requesting many more services from the staff that is working in extremely crowded conditions. Space and technology are sorely needed to keep up with the day-to-day workings of the Township. More houses require more planning, zoning, building, and shared information than ever before. We have a lot of catching up to do.



Some would say, "There's nothing to do in Bedford." and again they would be incorrect. Were you at Bedford Stadium during any part of the American Cancer Society's Relay-for-Life event May 19 and 20, 2007? Nearly 2,000 citizens walked the track during a 24 hours period to celebrate survivors, raise awareness, raise funds for research, and enjoy the fellowship. Everyone had a great time just knowing they were making a difference for their families. If not now, then

SUPERVISOR - Continued from page 1

sometime in the future we are all touched by Cancer. If you were there and took part in any aspect of the weekend that brought together thousands of citizens: to walk, to perform, to light candles in memory of loved ones, and to celebrate survivors, eat, talk, and have a great time; then you were a part of what's good and right about our community. We have an assortment of activities through the schools, through the churches, and through various civic and social organizations. There are opportunities for anyone to get involved no matter the age or station. It's OK for you to make the first call.

Please thank a Veteran, hug a returning soldier, and pray for the men and women that are fighting for our freedom.

Have a Great Summer! ■

ELECTION NEWS

By Bob Schockman, Bedford Township Clerk

The only election scheduled for 2007 is already past, that being the May 8, 2007 school election. Only 3,331 registered voters turned out for this election, which elected three (3) members to the Bedford School Board and we had a millage proposal on the ballot. Ann Myers and Mike Smith were elected to a four year term and Joe Gore was elected to a partial term (2 years). The millage proposal was for a 5 year, ½ mill sinking fund, and was defeated by a narrow margin.

Although our department has no more elections scheduled for 2007, we have a lot to do before the 2008 Presidential Election year. Michigan State Law only allows each voting precinct to have 2,999 registered voters and three of our fourteen precincts are getting close to that number. So, before the 2008 election year, I will be doing some reorganization of precincts in order to even out the number of voters in each one. I will also be changing at least one precinct location, due to the fact that location no longer wishes to participate in the voting process. So, precincts 3 & 10 will no longer be voting at the First Baptist Church at Erie Road and Lewis Avenue. I am actively looking for an alternate location for those precincts, but have not made a decision as yet. I will keep you all informed as this process progresses through articles in the newspapers as well as subsequent issues of the Township Newsletter, and if you do have a change in precinct or precinct location, you will receive a new voter ID card in the mail.

I know it causes a great deal of irritation to go to the wrong precinct and have to be rerouted to another location on election day, my department and I will do everything possible to get the correct information out to all registered voters before 2008 to ensure that those elections run as smoothly as possible. ■

News From The Assessing Department

By Chris Renius, Bedford Township Assessor/CMAE 3

The Assessing Department is in full appraisal mode! We have completed reappraising Section 31 and will continue on to Sections 28 and 32. We also will be out to visit any properties that have an active building permit sometime during the summer and fall months.

On July 17, 2007, the Board of Review will meet to conduct the July Board of Review. The purpose of this meeting is to correct certain clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact. It is at this meeting that the Board of Review can apply the Homeowners Principle Residence Exemption (*PRE*) to a property that qualifies. If you **OWNED AND OCCUPIED** a home as your **PRIMARY RESIDENCE** on or before May 1, 2007 and you have not applied for the **PRE**, please contact the Assessing Department at 734.847.6791 and request a form or you can print the Principle Residence Exemption form from the Michigan Department of Treasury's website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/2368f_2605_7.pdf. You can verify if your property is receiving the Principle Residence exemption at the Township website, www.bedfordmi.org.

All of the assessing information for the Township 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. there is no charge for the information pertaining to your own property. The Assessing Department's hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday thru Friday except for holidays. ■



The Clerk's Corner By: Robert Schockman, Township Clerk

Duties & Responsibilities of Township Officials

A few days ago I was asked the question, “What are the duties of elected Township Board Members?” I thought this would be a good opportunity to let Bedford residents know who is responsible for what with regard to township government. To start with, Bedford Township, because of its size, has four elected trustees. In addition, we also have an elected supervisor, treasurer and clerk, all of which comprise the Bedford Township Board.

Each has different duties and statutory requirements under State law, and listed below is a short synopsis of each.

TRUSTEE'S DUTIES

There are three Statutory Duties. They are:

- Township legislators and required to vote on all issues.
- Responsible for Township's fiduciary health (*responsible for the management of the affairs of the township*).
- Additional duties and responsibilities by township board action.

CLERK'S DUTIES

There are thirteen statutory duties. The Clerk is required to:

- Maintain custody of all township records.
- Maintain the general ledger.
- Prepare warrants for township checks.
- Record and maintain township meeting minutes.
- Keep the township Book of Oaths.
- Be responsible for special meeting notices.
- Publish board meeting minutes.
- Keep voter registration file and conduct elections.
- Keep the township ordinance book.
- Prepare financial statements .
- Deliver tax certificates to Supervisor and County Clerk.
- Appoint a Deputy (*required*).
- Post surety bonds.

SUPERVISOR DUTIES

There are nine Statutory Duties. The Supervisor is required to:

- Moderate board meetings.
- Be chief assessing officer (*if certified*).
- Be secretary to board of review.
- Be the townships legal agent.
- Maintain records of supervisor's office.
- Be responsible for tax allocation board budget.

- Develop Township budget.
- Appoint some commission members.
- Call special meetings.

TREASURER'S DUTIES

There are ten statutory duties. The Treasurer is required to:

- Collect real and personal property taxes.
- Keep an account of township receipts (*revenues*) and expenditures.
- Issue Township checks.
- Deposit township revenues in approved depositories.
- Invest township funds in approved investment vehicles.
- Collect delinquent personal property tax.
- Be responsible for jeopardy assessments in collecting property tax.
- Collect mobile home specific tax.
- Appoint a Deputy (*required*).
- Post a surety bond.

BOARD FUNCTIONS

Township officials “MAY” have additional responsibilities beyond those specified by statute, however those responsibilities “MUST” still be authorized by statute.

In short, the three full time elected officials (*Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer*) are responsible for the day to day running of local government, with the rest of the board (*Trustees*) charged with financial and policy making responsibilities.

It is my hope that this information will help the residents of Bedford understand better the duties and responsibilities of local government officials. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at my office, (734) 847-6791. ■



Dollar\$ and \$ense By: Sherri S. Meyer, Township Treasurer

Reminder For 2007 Taxes

The 2007 Summer Tax bills will be mailed on July 1. Don't forget that all of the County General Tax will be on this summer's tax bill, as per Public Act 357, along with the State Education Tax. There will not be any County General Tax on your winter tax bill but the County Library and the County Senior Tax will continue to be collected on your winter bill.

Part 303, Wetlands Protection, 1994 PA 451 as amended requires that property owners be notified of the completion of wetland inventories through their tax bills. There will be a notice on your 2007 Summer Tax Bill in order to comply with the legislative mandate outlined in Section 30322. The notice is as follows:

A county wetland inventory has been completed by the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) pursuant to Part 303 Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The inventory map is on file with the county extension office, register of deeds, and clerk and is also available at www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands. The inventory map provides potential and approximate locations of wetlands but cannot be used to identify wetlands for regulatory purposes. Property containing wetlands may be subject to regulation under Part 303. For more info, including how to obtain a wetland permit or a determination of whether property contains regulated wetland, please visit the MDEQ Website www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands.

An article regarding flooding and flood plains can be found in this newsletter on page 6.

To avoid paying a duplicate bill fee **PLEASE** remember to bring your tax bill or the top portion of your tax bill with you when you come in to pay your bill.

If you have changed mortgage companies, refinanced or moved be sure to call our office at (734) 847-6791, and let us know so we can send the tax bill to the correct place.

For Swimming Pool filling information please call South County Water at (734) 847-6791. ■

THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Layered Look

There's nothing quite like a horizontal branching woody plant to lend a graceful touch to your landscape. Few can fail to appreciate the sight of a mature flowering dogwood tree in May, its pink or white bracts hovering in stratus cloud formation. When not in flower or even in leaf, this dogwood's layered branches always provide delicate sculptural interest.

Not as well known is the pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), a large, shrubby native relative. Growing 12-15 feet tall and nearly as wide, this multi-stemmed shrub offers horizontal branching from the ground up, fuzzy white flower clusters in mid-spring followed by dark berries favored by birds. Bare branches in winter reveal this plant's elegant form.

Another handsome giant at about 10 by 10 feet is the double file viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum tomentosum*), so named for the double rows of white lacecap flowers that march down the length of each horizontal branch in May. If another viburnum provides cross-pollination, summer will bring bright red berries. Leaves turn dark burgundy in fall.

The latter two shrubs will thrive in either sun or shade but appreciate mulch to retain soil moisture. Their sizes and layered branching habits make them ideal as specimen plants or for privacy and screening. Just plant them where they have room to fully spread their branches and the only pruning you will need to do is occasionally cutting an older or broken stem back to the ground. ■



Meet The Township Hall Staff

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

Years employed at Township Hall: 10

Township Department: I work in the Ordinance Department.

How long have you lived in Bedford: 20 years.

Favorite thing about Bedford Township: I enjoy the location, convenience, and most of all the people.

Retirement Dream: Travel.

One thing you would like people to know about you: I am a man most Blessed of God. I have a great wife and family. ■



Ken Idle

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS

By: Lois White, Bedford Branch Librarian

Summer at your Bedford Branch of the Monroe County Library System

•For Children the summer reading program is *Get a Clue @ Your Library* beginning June 12 these programs will be held each Tuesday at 7 p.m. ending on July 24. This program is geared to school age children. A fun mystery program for preschoolers will be on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Children will help figure out the clues for what Blue wants to do, then we will do it. Please call and register for the preschool program. A special day for all ages on July 28 at 2 p.m. to join your friends for a wet and wild time at the Library grounds be prepared to get wet.

•For the older children on the second Friday of each month a game night is held from 5:30-8 p.m. This evening is rated *E* for “everyone”. Bring your own hand held games, board games or card games. Also on the fourth Friday of each month from 5:30-8 p.m. Anime club meets at the Library. They will be hosting a Anime Summer convention on June 10, from 12 noon-8 p.m. featuring cos-play, movies, drawing and all things Anime and Japanese cultural related.

•The Bedford Flower and Garden Club will host their annual garden tour on June 23, from 9 am to 3 pm. Six beautiful local gardens including the Library Gardens will be on display. Tickets are \$6⁰⁰ per person and available on the day of the tour with a map at the Library.

•July 20, from 9 p.m. to midnight join us for a *Harry Potter Party* the library will be transformed into the Magical Hogwarts castle for an evening of fun and crafts. At the stroke of midnight the final book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, will be for sale by the Friends of the Bedford Library. Reserve your copy by July 14 at a cost of \$20⁰⁰. Registration for this program is required.

•July 25, *Travel 101* if your interested in travel in U.S. or abroad this program is for you. Topics to be covered are passports, visas, currency, safety, accommodations, and packing. Hostelling International of the Toledo Area will share information. A representative from Bedford Township will be here also to take passport applications. Bring a driver’s license and birth certificate with a raised seal. The cost for the application and photo is \$107⁰⁰ and it takes about 12 weeks to receive your passport.

•July 28, at 2 p.m. we will be celebrating *Beatrix Potter’s* birthday with a quiet and relaxing afternoon tea for ladies. A representative of AAUW will share Ms. Potter’s life and history please call the library and book a table for 6 by July 25.

•If you are planning a trip and need some help, we have books and just of few of the many websites we find helpful are *michigan.gov/travel* and *USA.gov*. These sites are designed with up-to-date information to ensure you a great vacation.

•Did you know that there is an ongoing book sale at the Bedford Branch Library run by the *Friends of the Bedford Library*? You’ll find a variety of books at bargain prices. Funds raised from this sale and other special book sales are used to sponsor free programs and purchase items that enhance the library at no cost to taxpayers.

•If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer, please consider joining the *Friends of the Bedford Library*. We are looking for suggestions for programs to sponsor and help with planning and executing them. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Library and usually last an hour. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

Floods In Bedford Township?

For most Bedford 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 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 Township, Frenchtown 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 has participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program or NFIP. By participating in this program, nearly all 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 10 percent 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 storm that would typically happen every 100 years. The 500-year flood zone is a much wider area that extends beyond the 100-year flood zone and would result from a storm that typically happens every five hundred years.

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 before Bedford's involvement with the NFIP. When these homes are sold or refinanced, the lending institutions are now 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 than can be taken to flood proof the structure. 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.



Flood Plain Map Information

Attention all Realtors, mortgage lenders, and insurers: Bedford Township maintains a complete set of flood plain maps at the township hall to assist you in making flood plain determinations. The maps are available in the building department and the planning department. Our staff is available to assist you in using the maps sets. We also have available previous editions of the flood plain maps and maps for the entire Monroe County area.

FLOODS - Continued from page 6

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.

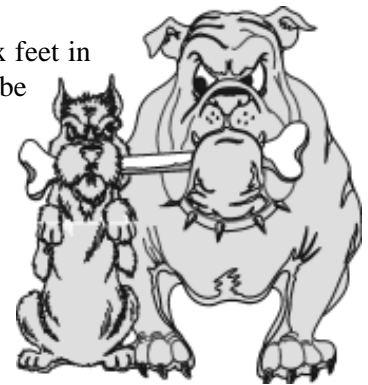
If you suspect that your home may be in a flood hazard area, Bedford Township maintains copies of the flood maps for the Township. Township personnel can assist you in reading the maps and provide you with instructions on what steps can be taken to reduce the potential for flood damage. We also maintain a supply of informational pamphlets on flooding in the Zoning/Building Department. ■

PARK BOARD NEWS

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.
- It has been brought to the Park Board's attention 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.



Fireworks/Walk Bedford

COME ONE, COME ALL!! Bedford Fireworks, sponsored by the Bedford Park Board and Bedford Township Board, will be held on Friday, June 27, 2007 at the Bedford Sports Stadium, near the corner of Dean and Jackman Roads. The event will begin with Karaoke in the evening, refreshments available at the concession stands, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display around 9:30-10:00 pm. On the same evening, the Park Board is also holding their annual "*Walk Bedford*" walk, beginning at 5:30 pm at Bedford High School, walking north to Temperance Road, then east to Lewis Avenue, then north on Lewis, to end at Carr's Grove Park. Refreshments, a nurse taking blood pressures, and a bus to return you to the starting point will be available. ■



Bedford Township Boards and Commissions 2007 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 1 st , 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 1:00 p.m.
Law Enforcement Committee.....	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of each month
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 Branch** of the **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 or please call **Walt Wilburn, Bedford Township Supervisor • 8100 Jackman Road • Box H • Temperance, MI 48182 • (734) 847-6791**.

Township Board meetings are broadcast on Buckeye Cable Channel 11 or 7 with 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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