

*Happy Holidays!*

*From The  
Bedford Township Staff*



*We wish all of you a Happy,  
Safe & Blessed Holiday Season!*

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### Points of Contact

Telephone ..... (734) 847-6791  
Fax ..... (734) 847-7809  
Info ..... (800) 846-8725

We're on the Web

[www.bedfordmi.org](http://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  
PALine: (800) U-GOT-PAL

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

# Bedford Township Library News

By: Lois White, Bedford Branch Librarian

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. We at the Bedford Branch of the Monroe County Library System have been very busy helping students with projects, providing internet service, storyhours, teen services, and many programs. We have had some exciting changes to our homepage and online catalog that will make searching much faster and easier. Just a few of them are:

- View the call number, availability, and branch location in the main search result display.
- Limit your search to available items only.
- Rate items by logging in and clicking on the stars in the main display
- Freeze your holds so you won't lose your place in line if, for example, you are going on vacation.
- If we don't have the item, you can request items from another Michigan library by simply clicking on the **MelCat** icon.

More changes are on the way including the use of more patron friendly terms and the ability to pay your fines online.

Another exciting service we are providing is downloadable audio books. Downloadable audiobooks are unabridged books for you to download and borrow to listen to on your home computer or a portable listening device. These audio books are available through the Monroe County Library System from **Recorded Books, Inc.** and **NetLibrary**.

We have many online resources available from the Library Home Page (<http://monroe.lib.mi.us>). Imagine having access to millions of articles from thousands of magazines and newspapers for your research needs from your home computer. Just a few of the subjects

covered are automotive repair, biographies, book reviews, business, law, and health. This is another free service provided to residents of Monroe County and funded by the Monroe County Library System and/or the State of Michigan. Stop in and pick up a brochure with the complete list of what is available.

As winter sets in we have many programs for children and adults to enjoy such as storyhours, book clubs, film book clubs, and many activities for teens.

### The Friends of the Bedford Library News:

The Friends of the Bedford Library will be sponsoring a Travel Series on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in January and February at 2:00 p.m.

January 13..... **Africa** with Tom and Lynne McNutt

January 27..... **England and Ireland** with Ann Myers & Lois White

February 10..... **Poland** with Katie Macaro

February 24..... **Jordan and Easter Island** with Charlie & Carol Quick

We will be sharing photos and highlights of the trips with limited refreshments. No registration is needed, just come and enjoy.

Friends of the Bedford Library have also scheduled a **Book Sale** on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donations will be taken for purchases, with proceeds going to defray the cost of the new Stained Glass enhancement being installed in the lobby of the Library.

**Happy Holidays** from the entire staff and thank you all for your continued support. ■

## MEET THE TOWNSHIP HALL STAFF

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

**Years employed at Township Hall:** I have been employed at the Township Hall for 20 years.

**Township Department:** I work in the Planning Department.

**How long have you lived in Bedford:** I have lived in Bedford Township for 31 years.

**Favorite thing about Bedford Township:** My favorite thing about Bedford Township is the people I meet.

**Retirement Dream:** Traveling.

**One thing you would like people to know about you:** At least until this year I was a Notre Dame fan.



DENNIS JENKINS



*From The*

# **Supervisor's Desk**

**By: Walt Wilburn, Township Supervisor**

Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas Season is on its way. And just for the record....*we have a lot to be grateful for this year.*

- We have a beautiful Government Center that all can be proud of.



- We have people willing to serve on Township Boards and Commissions.
  - We have a great Sheriff's Department keeping our Township safe.
  - We have an out standing Fire Department that is always there when needed.
  - We have businesses (*big and small, long-term and new*) that make our township thrive.
  - We have a Library to be praised.
  - We have parks that have raised everyone's expectations of what a park should be.
  - We have a school system that loves our kids.
- And.....*
- We have churches that are growing and bursting at the seams.

I know that this season is always busy and somewhat harried, but please, just for me and for each one of us, take the time to say *Thanks* to your neighbors and your friends and your family for their contribution to making our community the best it can be.

I also realize that Michigan's economy is suffering and many citizens of Bedford are being affected by this down turn. Some of our citizens have been laid-off from their jobs, some are being evicted, and some are struggling to put food on the table. **However, Bedford Township citizens should take heart.** Bedford Township citizens also have one of the largest contingents of Service Agencies and volunteers that are ready, willing, and able to assist with most problems.

Bedford Township citizens have the biggest hearts and an absolutely unprecedented number of volunteers willing to step forward with time, talent, funds, or leadership where ever it's needed. Knowing where to turn and how to access these services is valuable information.

Listed below are just a few of these services:

- Social Services ..... (734) 243-7200**
- Commission on Aging ..... (734) 240-7363**  
Assistance for Seniors
- Bedford Goodfellows ..... (734) 847-3641**  
Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets
- Bedford Lions ..... (734) 847-5466**  
Eye Glasses
- MCOP ..... (734) 241-2775**  
Assistance with Heating, etc.

Please also remember to keep our service men and women in your prayers.

We wish that where-ever they may be stationed; they will be safe and that they will be coming home soon.



## **The Monroe County Drain Commissioner has expanded service to Bedford Township.**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (*beginning January 2008*) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. either the Drain Commissioner or his Assistant will be at the Township Hall to answer questions and assist with any Monroe County Drain issues the residents have concerns about. Please call for appointment or just stop in.

*Merry Christmas To All!*



# The Clerk's Corner

By: Robert Schockman, Township Clerk

## ELECTION NEWS

2008 will be a busy year for the Clerk's Department, and now is a good time to get information out so that all of our registered voters can be informed and prepared. At this time, the following elections are scheduled:

- January 15, 2008..... Presidential Primary Election
- May 6, 2008 ..... School Election
- August 5, 2008 ..... Primary Election
- November 4, 2008 ..... Presidential Election

At this time we will not be making any precinct changes, but expect to have to do so before the big elections in August and November. We will keep you all informed both through this newsletter, the newspapers and the township cable station as soon as any change takes place.

As you can see above, I have listed a Presidential Primary Election on January 15, 2008. At the time of this printing, this election is "on hold"; it was ruled unconstitutional by an Ingham County judge due to a portion of the law allowing only the Democratic and Republican Party's information on who voted for which party. This election may be cancelled unless the state legislature decides to rewrite that portion of the law. This law affects this particular Presidential Primary only.

The proposed Presidential Primary is a "closed primary", which means separate ballots will be issued for Democrats and Republicans. When the voter goes to the polls or requests an absentee ballot, he or she must declare which party they wish to vote for. I realize this is not something Michigan voters have had to do in a primary election since the mid 1990's, but it will be required for this election only.

The other major change is 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.
- United States 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.

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 website, [bedfordmi.org](http://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 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.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a

**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year.**



# Dollar\$ & \$ense

By: Sherri S. Meyer, Township Treasurer

**W**e are now in our new township building and we love it. We have had rave reviews from all who have stopped in. Please try our new **DRIVE-UP WINDOW**. The one thing that residents had asked me over the years was "Why don't you have a drive up window?" When the building committee was planning the new building, I asked for the drive up window and now it is a reality. It is located on the south side of the building. The window is for paying your tax bills, your sewer bills, and/or water bills. It is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop by to check it out.

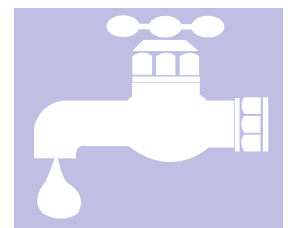
## 2007 WINTER TAX BILLS

The **2007 WINTER TAX BILLS** will be mailed on December 1, 2007. Here are a few reminders to help us all get through the tax season:

- We **DO ACCEPT** partial payments. Sometimes it is easier to make partial payments rather than pay a large amount all at once.
- Please **DO NOT** combine taxes and water and sewer payments on one check. Each account is separate so we need separate checks for each bill that you are paying.
- Be sure that your check is dated and signed and that the written amount and the numeric amount are the same.
- Please make your check out for the tax amount only. We can only accept the amount that is currently due. We cannot carry over balances until the next tax season.
- If you have refinanced with another bank or have paid off your mortgage, please call our office. Many times the banks and/or mortgage companies do not let us know if you have an escrow account.
- Direct Debit or ACH is now available to pay your taxes. We can debit your account once each tax season. The forms are available in the Treasurer's office or on line at [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org).
- You may pay your taxes with your credit card using Official Payments. There is a link on our website at [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org) or call **1-888-2PAY-TAX** and follow the instructions. **THERE IS A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE.**
- You may pay your taxes at **Bedford Township Hall**, or at the Temperance and Lambertville offices of **Monroe Bank & Trust, LaSalle Bank**, and the Lambertville office of **Fifth Third Bank** or by mail.
- Try our **NEW DRIVE UP WINDOW** or our **NEW DROP SLOT** located on the south side of our new Township Building.

## SEWER & WATER USE BILLS

- When mailing in your sewer use and/or water use bills be sure to **SIGN** and **DATE** your checks. Also make sure that your written and numeric amounts are the same!
- Please use **P. O. BOX H, Temperance, MI 48182**. If you use only **8100 Jackman Road**, your payment may be delayed or we may not receive it.
- Please **DO NOT** combine water and sewer payments on one check. These are separate accounts so we need separate checks for each bill that you are paying. ■



# NEWS FROM THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

By: Chris Renius, CMAE 3, Bedford Township Assessor

On July 12, 2007, Governor Granholm signed into law Public Act 36 of 2007, the Michigan Business Tax Act (MBTA), which takes effect January 1, 2008. Public Acts 37, 38, 39, and 40 of 2007, tie-barred to the MBTA, exempt Industrial Personal Property (351 classification) from the 6 mill State Education Tax and up to 18 mills of local school district operating millage and exempt Commercial Personal Property (251 classification) from up to 12 mills of local school district operating millage. The acts **DO NOT** change the definitions of industrial and commercial personal property as defined by MCL 211.34.c.

## INDUSTRIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY IS DEFINED BY LAW AS:

1. All machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, and dies on industrial parcels, and inventories not exempt by law.
2. Personal property of mining companies valued by the state geologist.

## COMMERCIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY IS DEFINED BY LAW AS:

1. All equipment, furniture, and fixtures on commercial parcels, and inventories not exempt by law.
2. All outdoor advertising signs and billboards.
3. Well drilling rigs and other equipment attached to a transporting vehicle but not designed for operation while the vehicle is moving on the highway.
4. Unlicensed commercial vehicles or commercial vehicles licensed as special mobile equipment or by temporary permits.

If the total usage of a parcel includes more than 1 classification, the Assessor shall determine the classification that most significantly influences the total valuation of the parcel.

Personal property statements will be mailed from this office within the next few weeks. These personal property statements will be the first filings to be affected by the adoption of these laws. The changes in the law will affect the tax liability of any Industrial or Commercial personal property in Bedford Township for the 2008 assessment and tax year. Again, the new MBTA exempts Industrial Personal Property (351 classification) from the 6 mill State Education Tax and up to 18 mills of local school district operating millage and exempts Commercial Personal Property (251 classification) from up to 12 mills of local school district operating millage

The assessing information for the Township is available on the Township web site at [www.befordmi.org](http://www.befordmi.org). The Assessing Department's hours are from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday thru Friday except for holidays. ■

## THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### *Through Rain, Sleet, Snow.... But Maybe Not Flowers*

Letter carriers at the U.S. Postal Service sometimes brave many challenges, weather-wise and otherwise, to deliver mail to our homes and businesses. But could flowers pose an insurmountable obstacle for our carriers?

Creating a lovely flower garden around one's roadside mailbox would seem to be a benign beautification project that passersby could also enjoy. However, the U.S. Postal Service advises that its employees are not required to deliver mail and risk possible fatal reactions to bee stings if they have known allergies to stings and the mailbox is surrounded by bee-pollinated flowers. Furthermore, mailbox gardens that prohibit proper snow removal or otherwise prevent the mail truck from easily accessing the mailbox are also problematic.

If you currently have a garden around your rural mailbox, consider modifications to remedy any problems noted above. Otherwise, in addition to keeping the box and supports in good condition and the address legible, a little paint or a post office approved designer box or box cover is mailbox beautification made easy. ■



# TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Many people calling the township are finding that they reach a "menu" instead of the telephone receptionist. This is sometimes confusing, so in an effort to help you reach the correct person or department a list of names, titles, extension numbers and the department they work in is listed below.

## SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT

Walt Wilburn..... Supervisor..... 121  
 Meg Smith..... Deputy Supervisor..... 122

## CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Bob Schockman..... Clerk..... 123  
 Trudy Hershberger..... Deputy Clerk..... 128  
 Garnet Francis..... Election Clerk..... 134  
 Linda Hritz..... Receptionist..... 120

## TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

Sherri Meyer..... Treasurer..... 124  
 Sandy Renius..... Deputy Treasurer..... 127  
 Krista Jandasek..... Administrative Assistant..... 152  
 Amy Hogberg..... Utility Clerk..... 132  
 Pam Andrews..... Part-Time..... 139  
 Trish Williams..... Part-Time..... 133

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mike McMillan..... Finance Director..... 125

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dennis Jenkins..... Planning/Zoning Coordinator..... 135  
 Karen Kincaid..... Administrative Assistant..... 137  
 Duane Tucker..... Zoning/Land Division Administrator..... 131  
 Mike Nafziger..... GIS Analyst..... 138

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT


Dennis Kolar..... Building Official..... 136  
 Barbara Martin..... Administrative Assistant..... 130  
 Jack Lange..... Building Inspector..... 145

## ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Chris Renius..... Assessor..... 126  
 Liz Gray..... Assessing..... 129  
 Alan Matlow..... Assessing..... 149  
 Karen Metreger..... Assessing..... 153

## ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Ken Idle..... Ordinance Officer..... 141  
 Steve Heer..... Ordinance Officer..... 150  
 James Brunt..... Ordinance Officer..... 151

 (Please clip and save)

## THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

- The Skate Board Park at Parmelee Park is now closed for the winter. It will reopen in the spring.
- The Bedford Township Park Board, in conjunction with the Temperance Action Committee will be holding a Christmas Tree lighting celebration at Carr's Grove Park, on Saturday, December 8, 2007, beginning at 6:00 pm. We will have music, refreshments, and a visit from Santa Claus. Come one, come all and join in on the fun!!
- There will also be a Christmas Tree lighting celebration at Samaria Community Center on Friday, November 23, 2007. Refreshments will be served.
- Effective January 1, 2008, the fees for the use of either Carr Community Center or Samaria Community Center will increase, due to increased utility and maintenance expenses. The fee will now be \$215<sup>00</sup>, plus a \$200<sup>00</sup> refundable deposit for Bedford residents, and \$240<sup>00</sup>, plus a \$200<sup>00</sup> refundable deposit for non-Bedford residents. In order to reserve, \$50<sup>00</sup> of the fee must be paid in advance. If you're interested in renting either Community Center, please call 734.847.6791 ext. 134, for more information. ■



# Bedford Township Boards and Commissions

## 2007-2008 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Township Board .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month
Beautification Committee .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month
Board of Review .....	Meets in March and possibly in July & December
Board of Zoning Appeals .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month
Cablevision Committee .....	Meets as needed
Economic Development Corporation .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month
Fire Commission .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Bedford Library Board .....	Meets 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month
Housing Commission .....	Meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month
Park Commission .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month
Downtown Development Authority .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m.
Law Enforcement Committee .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month
Temperance Action Committee (TAC) .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> 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. 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 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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