

# BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XVIII • ISSUE I • SPRING 2017



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### We're on the Web

[WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG](http://WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG)



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR Code Reader and scan the above code.

### OR VISIT US AT THE:

#### BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL

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

PHONE: (734) 847-6791

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Paul Pirrone .....	Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger .....	Clerk
Paul R. Francis .....	Treasurer
Michelle Bork .....	Trustee
TC Clements .....	Trustee
Rick Steiner .....	Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri .....	Trustee
Dennis Kolar .....	Building Inspector
Alan Matlow .....	Assessor

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8 AM to 5 PM  
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

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## From The Supervisor's Desk

By:  
**Paul Pirrone**  
Bedford Township  
Supervisor

## Local Initiatives To Support People With Autism

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of several initiatives that are taking place in Bedford Township. First of all is "**Light it Up Blue for Autism**" for the month of April and secondly the "**Red, White & Blue Rib Festival**" which will be held in June.

Each April 2nd, "**Autism Speaks**" celebrates the start of its signature campaign, "**Light It Up Blue**", along with the international autism community in recognition of UN sanctioned World Autism Month which is April as well.

Thousands of iconic landmarks and buildings join the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities around the world to "light blue" in support of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance and further support people with autism.

The "**Light It Up Blue**" campaign is designed to raise awareness and support fundraising events. Jim Nyhan, a local Bedford Resident whose son Jimmy has autism stated that awareness is needed to help others understand what families go through, the need for professional care givers, and just how wonderful these children are. Let's be clear: Autism is no walk in the park for those who have it, or for their loved ones. 1 in 68 children are born with autism and it affects both male and female. There is no known 'cure' for autism. This does not mean, however, that nothing can be done to help a person who is on the autism spectrum. Our understanding of autism has grown tremendously since it was first identified in the 1940s and research is ongoing.

Some things you can do during the month of April, people are encouraged to wear blue on Saturday to mark the event, install an outdoor blue light, give to an organization that provides service dogs or volunteer as an autism buddy. If your child has a classmate on the spectrum, invite that classmate to your child's next birthday party.

Jim and Jimmy's goal is to have a Walk for Autism to raise funds and awareness next April. **Let's Make Bedford Blue!**



## Ivor J. Lindsay Housing Complex

Congratulations to **Sue Soda, Executive Director** of the **Ivor J. Lindsay Housing Complex** and her staff for receiving a 100% on their HUD audit. HUD judges the complex on physical upkeep, financial management, capital retention and management of the property. This is no easy feat because HUD is a federal agency with very stringent requirements. Sue over the years has always been in the top for audits with HUD and her goal is to continue that trend. Most of all Sue provides excellent service to the residents.

Sue has been the Executive Director for the 97 unit complex for 24 years and has been working there for 28 years with great success. Ivor J. Lindsay was built in 1979 through the efforts of Ivor J. Lindsay, a local resident who traveled to Washington D.C. to secure funds for the project. He believed seniors should have a place to live that was affordable and safe in Bedford. At the time Bedford Township did not offer anything for senior citizens where rent was based on income. Upon completion he saw that his vision was carried out and the complex has become a true asset for the residents of Bedford Township.

Sue stated the complex is usually full and has a waiting list to get in. Bedford residents age 62 and older are always given preference first when a unit becomes available. Some things have changed such as if you are 21 years old and disabled you may qualify for a unit.

If you need information on qualifying or availability please feel free to call **Sue Soda** at **734.847.3950**. ■



## Red, White & Blue Rib Fest

The "**Red, White & Blue Rib Festival**" is set for **July 21-23, 2017** at Bedford High School. The festival is free to attend, and visitors can purchase BBQ from a variety of vendors. Rib masters from across the country along with some of our local rib masters will be heading to Bedford Township to fire it up and compete for the people's choice award.

**SUPERVISOR** (continued page 2)

**SUPERVISOR** (from page 1)

**Mike Calvin** (*owner of MJC Events*) and the promoter of the **Red, White & Blue Rib Festivals** feels Bedford is a great location for such an event. Mike is a Bedford High School graduate and wanted to give something back to the area. He has promoted Rib Fests in St. Louis and Chicago with great success. He looks forward to doing a Rib Fest in Bedford. Mike, "stated this is a family event that will feature fun for the kids, live entertainment and great food!" In addition businesses, crafts people and nonprofit organizations can rent space to display their goods and services along vendor row.



Paul Pirrone stated in a time when Bedford was looking to expand a signature event or add one for the summer, Mike happened to call and inquire if anyone was doing a rib festival in Bedford"? The answer was no; therefore, Paul then put Mike in touch with Bedford Schools. Mark Kleinhans Superintendent of Bedford Public Schools, thought this would be a great event for Bedford and a way to show off the community. The school system will benefit greatly by having the ability of raising funds, and in addition a fee is being paid for the use of the parking lot, thus the event was born! Paul Pirrone, believes The "**Red, White & Blue Rib Festival**" will enhance the fireworks display and should be a wonderful family event. If you have questions please call **Mike Calvin** at **314.625.3998** or e-mail him at **mikecalvin64@gmail.com**.

**NOTE: This article is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as an approved advertisement on behalf of the Bedford Township Board of Trustees. ■**

## Bedford Park Board News

By: **Connie Velliquette, Lew Smith, Jerry Goodridge, Joan Dunton, and Sally Dunn**

### We Want to Hear from You.....

#### *Help us Decide on Priorities for our Township's Community Parks*

Community parks and open spaces are essential components of Bedford Township. They serve as a focus for community involvement, increase residents' quality of life and serve to attract investment in the Township.

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

We're asking you to fill out a survey to let us know your preferences for the kinds of parks and facilities you would like to see. The results of this survey will give the Parks Commission the kind of input they need to make sure that you get the kind of parks that you want and will use.

The Parks Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall. The meetings are open to the public and your participation and input in the recreation planning process is welcome and encouraged.

Bedford Township's Parks Commission Chair, **Connie Velliquette**, may be reached with any questions at **734.297.1977**. ■

**Please visit the Township's website at [bedfordmi.org](http://bedfordmi.org) to take the survey by March 31, 2017.**



**Parmelee Park**

## ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY



**Mark your calendar for a FREE family event**

**Bedford Park Board will again have a great fireworks program to be held at the Bedford High School Stadium**

**Date: June 23, 2017 (raindate June 24)**

**Time: Dusk**

## Complaint Center for Buckeye Cable Customers

**T**he Communications/Media Commission would like to inform residents who have a complaint regarding their Buckeye service and have tried to resolve the issue with the Buckeye customer service; you can file a complaint with Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

Forms are available through the Bedford Township Hall and the Bedford Branch Library that can be filled out and mailed to MPSC; or you can directly contact them



**Buckeye CableSystem**  
at **800.292.9555** or online at **www.michigan.gov/mpsc** by clicking on "**How do I**" then click "**file a complaint**". ■



# The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk

## Initiation & Creation of a Special Assessment District (SAD)

It seems lately more residents have shown an interest in starting or at least receiving information on a Special Assessment District (SAD) in their area. This article is to give residents the knowledge to move forward with improvements in their neighborhood or subdivision

Special assessment districts are initiated by citizen petition. The citizen petition process demonstrates public support for an improvement by special assessment. Citizens can request an SAD for road, water or sewer improvements. Below are the steps in the creation of a Special Assessment District (SAD).

**Step 1: Petition** - This form is available at the Clerk's office. Contact the Township Clerk's Department for a list of property owners, a map and a petition. Complete the wording on the petition for circulation with help from the Clerk's Department. Receive a list of names and addresses of those who own property in the area you are creating. After the petition is circulated it will be turned into the Township Clerk's office.

**Step 2: Petition Sufficiency** - Completed petitions are turned in to the Clerk's office. Owners of record and signatures are verified by the Township Clerk's Department. If current ownership is questionable or cannot be obtained through verification against the current assessment roll and records located in the Bedford Township Assessing office, the signature may be void and not counted. It is important to note that the law requires the signature of the "record property owners" in the citizen petition process. Sufficiency of the petition is typically based on the following:

- More than 50% of the owners and more than 50% of total land area in the district have signed the petition.

**Step 3:** After the petition has been verified and the sufficiency requirement has been met, the request will be sent to the Township Engineer to prepare the plans and cost estimates for the project to be presented at the first of two public hearings. *\*\*Bedford Township holds an informational meeting prior to the "required Public Hearings" to give the residents more information on both construction and costs.*

**Step 4: Notice of 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing** - Notice of public hearings in special assessment proceedings shall be mailed to each record owner, or party in interest, of the properties to be included in the district. Notice shall be published twice before the public hearing in a newspaper circulating in the township, with the first publication also being at least 10 days before the date of the public hearing. The notice of hearing should contain the following:

- Date, time and location of the hearing
- Description of the proposed special assessment district
- Advice that plans and cost estimates for the improvement are on file at the office of the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection
- A statement that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and describing the manner in which an appearance and protest shall be made, and that protests may be filed by letter (*MCL 211.741(2)*)

**Step 5: 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing** - The first public hearing will be held by the Township Board as required under Public Act 188 of 1954, as amended, to hear objections to the proposed improvement project,

the petitions or the district boundaries.

**Step 6: Resolution #1** - At the 1st public hearing, the Township Board will consider adoption of a resolution doing all of the following:

- Designating the boundaries of the district
- Confirming the petition for sufficiency.
- Directing the supervisor (*assessor*) to prepare the special assessment roll.

**Step 7: Notice of 2nd Public Hearing** - The second public hearing will be held (*approximately 30 days after the 1st Public Hearing*) by the Township Board as required under Public Act 188 of 1954, as amended, to hear objections to the assessment roll. Notice of public hearings in special assessment proceedings shall be given to each record owner, or the party of interest in, of the properties to be included in the district. Notice shall also be published twice before the public hearing in a newspaper circulating in the township, with the first publication also being at least 10 days before the date of the public hearing. The notice of hearing should contain:

- Date, time and location of the hearing
- Description of the proposed special assessment district
- Advice that plans and cost estimates for the improvement, as well as the special assessment roll are on file at the office of the township clerk and are available for public inspection
- A statement that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required to appeal the amount of special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and describing the manner in which an appearance and protest shall be made, and that protests may be filed by letter (*MCL 211.741(2)*)

**Step 8: Resolution #2** - At the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing, the Township Board will consider a resolution to confirm the special assessment roll and describes the following:

- Approving the plans and cost estimates as presented
- Specifying the amount of the improvement costs to be paid by the residents in the district.

**Step 9: Bids** - Once the Township Board has adopted Resolution number 2, the Township Engineer will assist the Monroe County Road or Drain Commission's office (*dependent on the project*) to initiate the sealed bid process in order to select a contractor to construct the public improvement. Cost estimates could be increased 10% based upon the bid results. The supervisor (*assessor*) will be charged with the task of assigning the appropriate benefit amount for each parcel within the district.

**Step 10: Commence Construction.** The Monroe County Road Commission or Drain Commission will commence construction of the improvement project.

**Step 11: Implement Assessments.** The Township will begin the process of collecting the special assessments against the individual properties within the special assessment district on the next winter tax bill.

If you are interested in a road, water or sewer petition for improvements to your road or subdivision, please contact the **Township Clerk's Department at 734.224.7323.** ■

# Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



## Property Tax Information At Your Fingertips!

If you itemize deductions when preparing your 2016 income tax returns, you will need the amount you paid for property taxes during calendar year 2016. Remember: Special assessments for various improvements such as sewer or water lines, drains, roads, street lights, etc. are generally **NOT** deductible for income tax purposes. If you file for a 2016 Michigan income tax credit on Form MI 1040-CR or MI 1040-CR2, the tax amount required for credit calculation is the total 2016 Summer and Winter taxes billed, regardless of when those amounts were actually paid. You can obtain that information in several ways: from your mortgage escrow statement (*if you have a mortgage*); from the actual paid tax bills, or by accessing the Township website at [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org).

If you use the township website, click on the Property/Tax Information tab on the right side, then click Tax Information Search under the Current Tax on the left side of the page. The Tax Information Search screen will allow you to search by owner name, address or parcel number. You only need to fill in one of the fields. Then click Search, and the next screen may list several parcels. Click on the parcel you wish and the detailed tax information page will come up. Scroll down for the year and season (winter and summer) you need, then click on the plus sign (+) in front of the year. You will see the amount due, the amount paid, date it was paid, a breakdown of what was paid, assessed and taxable values, etc. This information can be printed for your records. If you have any questions or need help with the web page, please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's Department** at **734.224.7342**.

## 2017 Sanitary Sewer Rate Information

Your quarterly sanitary sewer usage bill is comprised of three components: operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and debt service. The operations and maintenance component is calculated per thousand gallons of metered or estimated water consumption. The depreciation and debt service components are calculated on the single-family residential equivalents basis.

### 2017 Current monthly sewer disposal rates are as follows (*billed quarterly*):

Operations and Maintenance ( <i>per 1,000 gallons</i> ) .....	\$ 4.74
Depreciation ( <i>per Residential Equivalent [R.E.]</i> ) .....	\$ 4.98
Debt Service ( <i>per Residential Equivalent [R.E.]</i> ) .....	\$ 4.67

### Average 2017 quarterly residential bill, based on a household of three is:

Operations and Maintenance ( <i>20,000 gallons</i> ) .....	\$94.80
Depreciation ( <i>3 months</i> ) .....	\$14.94
Debt Service ( <i>3 months</i> ) .....	\$14.01
Total Average Quarterly Residential Bill .....	\$123.75

## Secondary Water Meters

Please be aware that your sewer usage bill is based on your water usage as recorded by your water meter. If you are connected to the **South County Water System** and you are planning to water your lawn or fill your swimming pool, you should consider having a secondary water meter installed to monitor and record the water consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes (*i.e. lawn sprinklers, swimming pool, etc.*). Installing a secondary water meter will prevent your sewer usage bill from reflecting water gallons consumed for non-sanitary sewer purposes. There is a cost for the secondary water meter and installation, but the potential savings in your quarterly sewer usage bill may help offset this cost. Contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579** for further information and specific details.

## Swimming Pool Information

The **South County Water System** will fill swimming pools located in subdivisions within 300 feet of fire hydrants, or located on section roads within 300 feet of fire hydrants on the same side of the road as the pool. For more information please contact the **South County Water System** at **734.847.0579**.

## PLEASE NOTE: Delinquent Taxes

If you are unable to pay your property taxes by **FEBRUARY 28, 2017**, the Township Treasurer is required by law to transfer them to the Monroe County Treasurer's office for collection proceedings. In order to protect yourself from the foreclosure process, you need to call the **Monroe County Treasurer's Office** at **734.240.7365** as soon as possible to discuss your specific situation. The Monroe County Treasurer can offer suggestions for emergency loans and grants, sources for legal assistance, partial payment arrangements, special resources for veterans and senior citizens, hardship extensions, etc. **PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE DELINQUENT TAXES** and run the risk of losing your home. Help is available for you, but **YOU** must take the initiative and call the Monroe County Treasurer's office. ■



# Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

## Coming To Your Bedford Township Branch Library

- **Tax Forms at your library!** We have printed basic forms and can make copies of any forms from the IRS or State websites. We allow 15 pages free prints of tax forms. We only ask that you know what forms you need as we aren't qualified to help you determine which to use.
- **We are looking for student volunteers** to work on our new gardening endeavor - vegetable gardening! We want young people to get involved in learning about how to grow healthy food. If you know someone who is interested please contact Linnea at the Bedford Branch Library, 734.847.6747. Qualifies as community service hours!
- **Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 1:00 pm**  
**Concealed Pistol License Update:** Your right, Your responsibility - with Attorney, Henry Lievens.
- **Monday, March 6 • 7:00 pm**  
**Depression Era Glass**, presented by Jan Borresen-Hector of the National Cambridge Collectors Club and the Great Lakes Depression Glass Collectors Club, is American Glass made from slightly before 1929 to the end of WW2. Patterns and the companies who produced them will be discussed as well as what came before and after. Selected pieces from Jan's private collection will be displayed. This event is co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Bedford and the Friends of the Bedford Library.
- **There still time to Travel with Friends!** Refreshments are served as you view travel pictures and hear tales and tips of our Friends' vacation travels. Sunday, March 12, 2:00 pm, hop on a **Rhine Getaway Viking River Cruise** with Margie. Special Time Double Event Sunday, March 26, 1:00 pm, see what a Buffalo Roundup in the Black Hills of South Dakota is like and then join us at 2:00 pm as we bring back Jackie and Gary with their friends Dr. Jo and Buffalo Bill Boycott for an afternoon concert of the Good Ole Songs with a western twist!
- **Painting with Betzi Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 28 • 6:30 pm**  
Local artist, Betzi Lievens, will be sharing her talents in this series on different artistic techniques. Supplies provided by the Friends of the Bedford Branch Library. Registration is required. <http://bit.ly/paintwbetzi>.
- **Women Who Changed History!** Saturday, March 18 at 2:00 pm,

The Friends of the Bedford Library presents Marie Papciak, bringing history alive with her one-woman show. Marie will portray **Bessie Coleman, the first African-American female pilot**, and **Laura Smith Haviland, Abolitionist from Adrian, Michigan**. Her unique approach to teaching women's history captures the imagination of children and adults alike.

- **Sunday, April 2 • 2:00 pm**  
As part of **One Book One Community of Monroe County**, the Friends of the Bedford Library present **Landfill Harmonic, the story of a group of musicians from Catuera, Paraguay**, who play instruments made entirely out of recycled garbage! They provide a source of hope for their town when natural disaster occurs. A true testament to the transformative power of music and the resilience of the human spirit. For more information go to [www.landfillharmonicmovie.com](http://www.landfillharmonicmovie.com).
- **Monday, April 3 • 7:00 pm**  
Join Monroe County's Bicentennial celebration as **The Frenchtown Fiddlers** take you back in time. A performing ensemble of Monroe Public Schools under direction of Ann Felder, they specialize in traditional American and Irish fiddle tunes. Co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Bedford and Friends of the Bedford Library.
- **Tuesday, April 11 • 7:00 pm**  
In honor of Monroe County's Bicentennial, **Chris Kull** will offer highlights of **Important Women from Monroe County's past**. Chris is the former archivist and curator of the Monroe County Historical Museum and served as the operations manager of the River Raisin National Battlefield Foundation. Refreshments will be served.
- **Tuesday, April 25 • 7:00 pm**  
As part of the Michigan Notable Author Tour, Tom Stanton, journalist and Detroit native, will discuss his research and career and his most recent title **Terror in the City of Champions: Murder, Baseball, and the Secret Society that Shocked Depression-era Detroit**. Refreshments, book sales and signing to follow.
- **Tuesday, May 9 • 7:00 pm**  
Local author Terry Shaffer will discuss his two books **Illegal Gambling Clubs of Toledo and Toledo Night Clubs: a nostalgic look at Night Club Ads**. Refreshments, book sales and signing to follow. ■

## The Bedford Beautification Committee

### See You at the Trade Fair

Check out the Beautification Committee booth at the Bedford Business Association Trade Fair on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12 at Bedford Senior High School. Once again we are giving away White Pine Seedlings and eager to hear how previous years' seedlings are coming along in your yard. You can also win a beautiful pot of flowers by signing up for our free drawing. And think about a yard or two that you can nominate for our summer Yard of the Month awards.

"Green Thumb" is the theme for this year's free seminar on Saturday, May 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bedford Branch Library. Each spring the Committee presents local experts who speak on gardening and nature related topics. Information on our current seminar will be available at our Trade Fair booth but plan now to spend an enjoyable and informative two hours with us to kick off the gardening season. ■



White Pine Seedlings

# 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 Charter Township, Frenchtown Charter Township and the City of Monroe. Bedford Township is generally more affected by urban flooding from runoff during heavy downpours. During heavy rain events 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 many 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 heavy storm. The 500-year flood zone is a much wider area that extends beyond the 100-year flood zone and would flood during a very heavy storm that happens less frequently.

On October 2, 2014, FEMA adopted revised flood maps that may affect properties that were not in a flood zone but now may be under the revised maps. Some properties that were once in a flood zone may have been removed. It is advisable that property owners review the new maps to determine the current status.

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 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 and reduce the

risk of damage. 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.
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. ■

**Notice to all Lenders,  
Realtors, Builders and  
Property Owners!**

In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, Bedford Township provides assistance in helping you determine whether parcels located in the Township are affected by flood plains. It is important that you take advantage of this service prior to offering any property for sale or for construction. If you need assistance or have any questions please contact Bedford Township

## Videos on Bedford Website [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org)



You can access the videos of the Township Board Meetings on the website. On the left side of the home page under Quick Links, "click" on Video of Bedford Township Board Meetings, then "click" on the date you want to view.





# Bedford Township Fire Department Update



By: Ron Whipple, Fire Chief / Fire Inspector / Township Fire Marshall

*The Mission of the Bedford Township Fire Department is to save, serve and protect the citizens and their property to the best of our ability!*

- Spring is quickly approaching and with its arrival comes a number of hazards. One of the largest is the use of outdoor grills. Be sure to keep your grill a sufficient distance from combustibles such as siding on buildings, especially vinyl siding. Make sure you know how to shut off the gas to the grill in case of an accident or emergency. Keep children away from the grill.
- Lawn mowers will also be coming into use. Be aware of children around any power equipment. Pick up objects from the yard which can be thrown from the equipment possibly endangering people or things.
- Fires in the yard to burn yard waste or camp fires are enjoyable, but still can be dangerous if not watched carefully. Keep children at a safe distance and all fires, no matter how small, should be attended by an adult at all times.
- Anytime of the year we must not forget our smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be an important part of every home. Unfortunately not enough emphasis is placed on having them or even maintaining them if they are in place. Smoke detectors save lives. That has been proven by statistics which show your risk of death due to a fire is cut in half if you have working smoke detectors in your home. In recent years, 37% of home fire deaths occurred in residences that did not have a working smoke detector.
- We continue to encourage everyone to take the steps necessary to ensure their home are fire safe, today and every day.
- To the firemen and citizens of Bedford, I would like to thank you for your support over the period I have served as the Fire Chief of this fire organization. ■



## A Trustee's Budget Responsibility

By: Nancy Tienvieri, Bedford Township Trustee

The current Township Board, newly elected in November 2016, is in our first quarter of our four-year term. Beginning in March we will work together to set the Budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2017. Bedford Township's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30, so we set meetings several months before the end of one fiscal year to plan for the next yearly budget. By the end of the second quarter of calendar year 2017, we will approve the Bedford Township Budget for July 2017 through June of 2018.

As a Trustee it is my statutory responsibility to oversee and be mindful of the taxpayer's finances. My philosophy as your Trustee is to reduce spending in many line items of the Budget in all departments in order to free up money for resident services. Many services that have been added in the last few years are recycling, fall and spring collection of yard waste, and mosquito "donuts" for use in standing water during mosquito season. All of this is at no additional cost to our residents. The money to pay for these services was found in the existing revenue the Township receives annually from State Shared Revenue, tax allocation, existing fees, permits issued, and several other sources of revenue collected by the township each year. In addition, we have made extensive improvements to roads throughout Bedford Township again with no additional millages, no special assessments or no new taxes to our citizens.

How is this possible? By looking at each category of spending and determining if we can do better in terms of scrutinizing the need, cost, and supply. Sometimes when there are many departments we might be able to borrow an item instead of buying a new one. Maybe we might get a better deal if we bought locally instead of the ease of

buying online. It may not always work but it's worth an investigation. Maybe when someone needs to talk to the attorney several employees could gather together in one room so all who need the answer could hear the words once instead of several people calling the attorney for the same question. We could and should put items and contracts out for bid periodically to determine if another company is willing to provide the service for a lesser charge. There are many ideas that can be discussed and investigated. We won't know unless we try, and as employees of the taxpayer it is our duty to try.

That is my approach to setting a Budget for 2017-2018. I don't believe in asking for more tax dollars until we have cut to the bare bones of the \$4-million-dollar revenue we already receive. We have several ways we can reduce our costs to free up dollars for serving our residents. We all have to be willing to find ways of getting out of our comfort zones and being more frugal. Our Budget Workshops begin Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. The meetings are open to the public. We would like to see you there expressing your opinions, suggestions, and holding us accountable! Remember we work for you! ■





**Bedford Township**

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 65

**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
BEDFORD TOWNSHIP**

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
2017-2018 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 and December
Board of Zoning Appeals .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month
Fire Advisory Committee .....	Meets As Needed • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Communications/Media Commission .....	Meets at 6:00 p.m. the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month
Bedford Library Board .....	Meets 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month
Housing Commission .....	Meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
Temperance Action Committee (TAC) .....	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lambertville Pride Committee .....	As Needed
Samaria Heritage Committee .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month • Samaria Hall ( <i>Park</i> ) at 6:30 p.m.

- All meeting times are at **7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated.
- All meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall • 8100 Jackman Road • Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The **Library Advisory Board** meetings are held at the **Bedford Township Branch • Monroe County Library System • 8575 Jackman Road • Temperance, MI 48182**.
- **Bedford Township Housing Commission** meetings are held at the offices of the **Ivor J. Lindsay Senior Housing Complex • 8745 Lewis Avenue • Temperance, MI 48182**.
- The **Township of Bedford** will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings upon one week's notice to the Township of Bedford. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township of Bedford in writing. *Please address all correspondence to: Paul Pirrone, Supervisor • 8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H • Temperance, MI 48182*. You may also contact **Supervisor, Paul Pirrone** by calling **(734) 224-7321**.

**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.**