



# BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XVII • ISSUE II • SUMMER 2016

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**We're on the Web**  
**WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG**



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR code reader by taking a photo of the above code.

OR VISIT US AT THE:

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL**  
8100 JACKMAN ROAD • P. O. Box 2  
TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182

**PHONE: (734) 847-6791**  
**FAX: (734) 847-7809**

- Greg W. Stewart ..... Supervisor
- Trudy L. Hershberger ..... Clerk
- Paul R. Francis ..... Treasurer
- Larry O'Dell ..... Trustee
- Paul Pirrone ..... 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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## The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

### Election News

This article is similar to one I wrote four years ago, when we had the last Presidential Election. This information is important to read and remember because the decisions made at the **August Primary Election** and **November Presidential Election** could mean major changes in how not only our local government is run, but on the State and National level as well. So, I've changed dates and updated information as needed, and I urge you to read and keep this article for reference as you decide how you want to vote in these important upcoming elections.

### ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

If you're a new resident to Bedford Township, have moved, just turned 18 years of age, or haven't voted in several years, you may not be sure if you're registered to vote here. The easiest way to check, if you have a computer, is to go to our website, [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org), "click" on **Voter/Election Information** (located on the right side of the page), then "click" on the **Voter Registration Information Website**. This site will give you election information and 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, **734-224-7323**. Either I or one of my staff will be happy to assist you. If you find that you are not registered to vote and wish to vote in the **August 2, 2016 Primary Election** (and any future elections), Michigan Election Law requires you to do so at least 30 days before the election, which means you would have to do so by July 5, 2016. You can register to vote at the local **Michigan Secretary of State's office** or at my office at the **Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance**.



### ELECTION LAW CHANGE

In January of 2016, the Michigan State Legislature enacted a law whereby, the voter can no longer choose a single box for straight party voting. **This does not change the requirement for straight party voting in primary elections, which require the voter to vote only one party, it only removes the ability to mark one box to vote for all candidates in your party choice.**

### ABSENTEE VOTERS

With the two upcoming elections (the August Primary and the November Presidential Election) this year, I would like to remind our permanent absentee voters to get your applications signed and returned to my office, if you haven't already done so. If you are not sure if you have returned your application, or if you would like to be added to our permanent absentee voter list (you must be 60 years of age or older or unable to go to the polls because of a physical disability) please call my office, **734-224-7323**, and we will add you to our list of permanent absentee voters. **Once you are on this list, you will be automatically sent an absentee ballot application form for each scheduled election, that must be signed and returned in order to receive the ballot.**

### AUGUST 2, 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION

2016 is an important election year, not only on the state and national level but on the local level as well. In Bedford Township, all 7 township board positions (full-time supervisor, clerk & treasurer, as well as 4 trustee seats) are on the ballot. The upcoming **August 2, 2016 Primary Election** is unusual in Bedford due to the fact that the only local positions that have candidates on the Republican and Democratic ticket are the Supervisor, and Trustees. What is important to remember is that in the State of Michigan, the law states that in primary elections a voter can only vote a single party.

I also want to remind you that a primary election does not officially elect anyone to an office. A primary election narrows the field for each office to the number of positions open, for each political party. **A candidate can lose in a Primary Election but they cannot win an office in a Primary Election.** For instance, the office of township trustee is 4 positions. On the Republican portion of the ballot, Bedford has 9 candidates

(CLERK - continued on page 2)

(CLERK - continued from page 1)

running, and on the Democratic side, there is 1 candidate running. After the Primary Election, the 4 Republican candidates who receive the most votes on the Republican ballot will then be on the ballot in November. Because there is only 1 Democratic candidate on the primary ballot and 4 open positions, that candidate will automatically be on the ballot in November.

For our absentee ballot voters; if you do mistakenly or inadvertently vote for both Democrat and Republican candidates in the primary election, the only portion of your ballot that will count is the non-partisan portion and any proposals that may be on the ballot, everything else will be disqualified. If you make a mistake on your absentee ballot, you can bring it back to the township and receive a new ballot. For those of you who go to the polls to vote, should you mistakenly vote both parties, your ballot will be rejected by the tabulator when you try to process it and you will have the opportunity to vote a new ballot.

In addition to local, state, & federal candidates running, two local

millage proposals will be on the August 2, 2016 Ballot. They are:

- The Fire Protection Renewal Proposal
- The Local Public Transportation Renewal Proposal  
(aka Lake Erie Transit Proposal)

In addition, there are two county proposals on the ballot. Further information on all proposals will be published in the newspapers as we get closer to the date of the election.

## NOVEMBER 8 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The **November 8, 2016 Presidential Election** will elect a **President for the United States, U. S. Senator, Federal Congressman, a State Representative, Monroe County Officials, Monroe County Commissioners, County Road Commissioner, Judgeships, College and University Trustees, Local School Board** and all **township offices**. I will be putting more information in the next issue of the newsletter (*fall of 2016*) regarding the November Election. ■

# Bedford Park Board News

By: John Mohr, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn, and Michele DeLaney

Well, it's that time of year again, when our parks get very busy with families utilizing our great parks. We've been working hard this spring, getting not only the playground areas all "spruced up" and ready for visitors, but our Community Centers, as well. To start out with, all the parks are open, including the **Skateboard Park** and **Disc Golf Course** at **Parmelee Park**. We are putting in new mulch at all the playgrounds, and stone on the driveways.

We are looking forward to **Friday, June 24, 2016** for our annual fireworks display. It will be held at the **Bedford Community Stadium**, beginning at dark (*9:30 or 10:00 pm*), and so mark your calendars, because we plan on having a wonderful, exciting evening of spectacular fireworks for your viewing pleasure. Should Mother Nature not agree to provide good weather on the 24th, the rain date is scheduled for the of **June 25**.

In advance, we would like to thank members of the **Bedford Alliance Church** for agreeing to help our board with clean-up of the **Bedford Stadium** and **Parking Lot** the morning after the fireworks. They helped us last year and did a great job. We are very appreciative of their help. If any residents would like to help out as well, meet us in the stadium parking lot at 9:00 am the morning after the fireworks display.

While we're writing about thanking people, we would like to also thank (*in advance*) the businesses, organizations, and residents who have made monetary donations to our fireworks display. Their names will be listed in a thank you ad that we will place in both the **Bedford Press** and **Bedford Now** newspapers.

As was mentioned in our last article, **Pickle Ball** is official at **White Park**. We have had a lot of interest in this new (*to us*) sport and are glad we can provide a venue for those interested to be able to learn and play the game. Community Education is offering pickle ball classes to anyone interested in trying out this fun game.

## Listed below are other special events that are planned at our parks this year.

- **Samaria Day** - This is a daylong garage sale, held on **Samaria Road**, between **Jackman Road** and **Lewis Avenue** to be held on **Saturday, June 11, 2016**. There will be food and entertainment available and the Samaria Community Center may be utilized for this event.
- **Temperance Garage Sale Day** - This event will be held on **Saturday, September 10, 2016** at and around the **Carr's Grove Park** area, with local businesses participating as well. This is another great event, with lots of things to look at and buy, and food and entertainments available as well.
- Although we hate to think about winter, our annual **Christmas Tree Lighting** at **Samaria Community Center** will be on **Friday, November 25, 2016** (*the day after Thanksgiving*). The tree lighting at **Carr's Grove Community Center** will be on **Sunday, December 4**. More information about these events will be announced later in the year.
- The **Bedford Township Park Board** is looking forward to a great summer at all of our parks.

Come and join us! ■



# Helpful Information

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

## These are contacts and numbers that are often hard to find.

- You can sign up for the **National Do-Not-Call List** either by telephone or through the internet. Either visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call toll-free **1-888-382-1222** from the telephone if you wish to register.
- Information about homeowners and automobile insurance is available at: [www.michigan.gov/difs](http://www.michigan.gov/difs).
- Michigan residents can get up-to-date information about the **Zika Virus in Michigan** by going to [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases).
- Consumers can find **Michigan Public Service Commission** help at: [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc).
- If you have state issues you wish to discuss, contact either **Senator Dale Zorn** at [SenDZorn@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenDZorn@senate.michigan.gov) or **1-517-373-3543**; or **Representative Jason Shepard** at [JasonSheppard@house.mi.gov](mailto:JasonSheppard@house.mi.gov) or **1-517-373-2617**.
- If you have issues at the federal level, contact either **Hon. Tim Walberg** at <http://walberg.house.gov/contact> or **1-202-225-6276**, **Hon. Debbie Stabenow** at [senator@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:senator@stabenow.senate.gov) or **1-202-224-4822**, **Hon. Gary Peters** at [senator@peters.senate.gov](mailto:senator@peters.senate.gov) or **1-202-224-6221**.
- Other important federal phone numbers are:

<b>Medicare Help Line</b> .....	<b>1-800-633-4227</b>
<b>Social Security Help Line</b> .....	<b>1-800-772-1213</b>
<b>Dept. of Veteran Affairs</b> .....	<b>1-734-240-7362</b>
<b>Secretary of State (Licenses)</b> .....	<b>1-888-767-6424</b>
<b>State Dept. of Treasury (Income Tax inquiry)</b> .....	<b>1-517-636-4486</b>

- Information and applications for passports are available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). The **Bedford Township Clerk's Department** is a **Full Passport Agency**, offering this service since 2003. We can take passport photos for a **\$10.00 fee** as well as processing the applications. For any questions about passports or to make an appointment to apply, you can call me or one of my staff at **734-224-7323**.
- For **Monroe County Road Commission** questions or problems, call **1-888-354-5500, ext. 5102**. The Road Commission also has a website available [www.mcrc-mi.org](http://www.mcrc-mi.org).
- For **Monroe County Drain Commission** questions or problems, call **1-888-354-5500, ext. 3101** or go to the website at [www.co.monroe.mi.us/government/departments\\_offices/drain\\_commissioner](http://www.co.monroe.mi.us/government/departments_offices/drain_commissioner).
- The **1-888-354-5500** toll free number enables you to reach all **County Offices or Officials**, however, you will have to go through a menu system to get to the office or official you wish to speak to.
- The officials and employees of **Bedford Township Hall** are committed to giving the residents of Bedford Township the best customer service we can. Please don't hesitate to call us if we can be of assistance. The township telephone number is **734-847-6791**. Dialing this number, you will reach a menu from which you can choose which department you wish to speak to. Or, if you are not sure about which department you want, contact my department at **734-224-7323** and we will either help you with your problem/concern or direct you to the correct department. Our office hours are **8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday**. ■

## News From The Assessing Department

By: Alan Matlow, MAAO & Lewis Smith, MCAO • Bedford Township Assessing Department

**T**he **Bedford Township Assessing Staff** has started to conduct field work and real estate reviews for 2016. The following types of properties will be visited this year. **Residential homes, Commercial, Industrial properties** along with **partial and new construction** sites. Property reviews will take place during daytime township business hours **8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m.** on weekdays through December. All assessing staff members will be in marked township vehicles and have Township Identification Cards.

A letter of an upcoming visit will be sent to the property owner several weeks before a visit is made. **NOTE:** Visit letters are not sent to partial and new construction sites. When a property is visited for a review. The Staff members will knock on the resident's front or main access doors, interview the owner or tenant, walk around the home and out buildings, verify measurements and take pictures of the structures. If no one is home at the time of the visit, an information card is left on the front door. Please complete and return this card to the **Assessing Office, Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**.

If you have any questions or concerns about an upcoming property review. Please call the Assessing Department at **734-847-6791 Ext 7353**. For additional property information. You may visit our office during normal business hours or you can visit the Bedford Township website [www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org). ■

# Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



## 2016 SUMMER TAX BILLS

**2016 Summer Tax Bills** will be printed in house, and mailed out around **July 1**. They are due and payable on or before September 14, 2016 without interest being assessed. On September 15 a 1% interest charge must be added to your unpaid tax bill and an additional 1% must be added the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is fully paid.

Taxes may be paid by cash or check payable to the Bedford Township Treasurer, by mail (*using the envelope provided*), by using our convenient drive-up window, drop box, or service counter inside the **Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182**. In addition, we are pleased to accept payments by debit or credit cards, and electronic check. We also accept a pre-arranged direct debit (*ACH*) to your bank account for both Summer and Winter taxes, using an ACH Authorization form which you would need to file with the Treasurer's office. Detail information regarding payments by debit or credit cards, and electronic check is provided below. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of **Monroe Bank & Trust, Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch)** and **First Merit Bank (Temperance Branch)**.

### Deferred Payment of 2016 Summer Tax Bills

Senior citizens (*age 62 and over*), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of 2016 Summer taxes if your household resources (*taxable and non-taxable income*) is \$40,000 or less. Qualified agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. The deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the Township Treasurer's office before September 14, 2016. If you qualify, payment of your **Summer 2016 taxes** may be deferred until **February 14, 2017**

without any penalty or interest added. Please call the **Bedford Township Treasurer's office** at **(734) 847-6791, extension 7342** for the required forms and/or information regarding the deferment process. This may be important to you, so please don't overlook it.

### Debit & Credit Card Payments Now Accepted

For your convenience, the Bedford Township Treasurer's office is able to accept debit card, credit card and electronic check payments for any payments you wish to make to Bedford Township for property taxes, sewer usage bills, building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing permits, passport fees, park facility rental fees, planning and zoning fees, cemetery lot sales and burial fees, etc. A Convenience fee (*user fee*) will be charged by a third party (*Point and Pay, LLC*) as follows: for tax payments (*only*), a user fee of 3% of the payment amount will be charged; for all other debit and credit card payments, a user fee of \$1.50 per \$50.00 increment will be charged; for electronic check payments (*online*), a user fee of \$3.00 for payments up to \$10,000.00, \$10.00 for payments in excess of \$10,000.00 will be charged. Debit card and credit card payments can be made at our convenient drive-up window, our service counter inside the Bedford Township Government Center, or online, using our township website ([www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org)). E-Check payments can only be made online by using our township website.

**PLEASE NOTE: Because we are a completely separate entity from the South County Water System, we are unable to accept debit card, credit card or e-check payments for water usage bills. We can only accept cash or checks payable to the South County Water System, which we then forward on to them as a convenience to you. ■**

## A Community Caring for Our Environment

By  
**Nancy Tienvieri**  
Bedford Township  
Trustee

**A**t the May 10, 2016 Bedford Township Board Meeting the Board heard a presentation by **Mary Kay Thayer** and **Jackie Thayer-Ball** regarding the "**Benefits of the Addition of Plants to Retention and Detention Ponds**". Mary Kay, and her husband are long-time residents of Bedford Township and has been very active in our community by her serving on the Township Board as well as County Boards. She and her daughter Jackie are avid supporters of moving Bedford Township forward and aiding in finding solutions to issues that arise. In the 1990's Mary Kay researched and wrote a grant for the Township to bring connected walking/biking paths to the Township. Sadly, after all her work the grant was not approved. However, here she is again bringing new ideas to the forefront. Mary Kay and Jackie gave an excellent presentation to the Bedford Township Board that brought education to a concern that confronts our community.

Detention and Retention ponds are required by the State to be installed in new developments in order to retain or detain storm water

that eventually will enter our public waterways such as streams, rivers, and lakes. A detention pond holds storm water so that the rainfall and silt does not run quickly into the waterways. The detention pond is regulated by the State and Monroe County Drain Commission to meter the pace at which the water can flow downstream to reduce the silt and contaminants going into the larger bodies of water. The retention pond is designed to hold water for a period of time.



(COMMUNITY CARING - continued on page 5)

**(COMMUNITY CARING** - continued from page 4)

Both of these engineered ponds exist throughout Bedford Township serving the purpose they have been installed to accomplish. The drawback however is that the ponds can be an environment to breed mosquitos, when not performing properly can look unsightly with algae, weeds and muck, and when holding water can prevent mowing and proper upkeep.

The solution that was presented was that neighborhoods with these ponds could plant wildflowers and other specific plants that aid the ponds in doing what they were designed to do. In her presentation Mrs. Thayer-Ball stated, "There is a nation-wide call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America. A huge benefit to planting a pollinator-friendly garden is that you are making a difference for honey bees, bumble bees, other bees and pollinators that bring us 1 of every 3 bites of food." It is well known that our bee supply throughout the world has been in decline

in the past few years, for many reasons. If we lose the bees the crops are not pollinated as needed for our food supply. And plants that bring butterflies just makes sense to enjoy the beauty in motion!

Many residents have shared their dislike of detention and retention ponds, but the ponds are required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. So, it seems to help make them attractive rather than allow them to be unattractive seems like a no-brainer. So, if you live in a neighborhood with a detention or retention pond please get together with your neighbors and begin to turn your pond into a beautiful addition to your subdivision. There are many places online you can find helpful information on the names and types of plants that will turn your pond around. It will help in making your neighborhood a place where others will want to buy a home or raise their families. It will also help your community, Bedford Township. Isn't that what "community" is all about....*doing what is for the good of all?* ■



# Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

## *Coming up at your Bedford Township Branch Library*

- In partnership with the Bedford Historical Society, we are pleased to announce **Dinner at the White House**: The Presidential China on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Marjorie Waterfield will share entertainment habits of all of the First Families, from the Washingtons to the Obamas.
- **Ready...Set...Move!** We've got just the summer activities for your whole family. Programs begin June 12. Registration is available at <http://bit.ly/BDsummer>.
- **Kick Off Program Shake Rattle & Roll.** Tuesday, June 14 at 6:00 pm Interactive dance and movement with prizes and fun for all school-aged kids.
- **Toddler Story time for children 18 - 36 months old,** Fridays at 10:00 am or 11:00 am or Saturdays at 10:00 am
  - **Preschool Story time, for 3 - 5 year olds,** Mondays at 9:00 am, 10:00 am or 11:00 am
  - **Movie Wednesdays** start June 15 and run for 10 weeks. Bring your own movie snack. 10:00 am G-Rated movies, 1:00 pm New Release movies
  - **On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!** Book Clubs 1st and 2nd grade Mondays at 1:00. 3rd through 6th grade Thursdays at 10:00 am or 1:00 pm.
  - **Lego Building Club for all ages!** Bring the whole family to the library on the first and third Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
- **Teens - Get in the Game!** Fill out a slip for every 3 novels or 6 graphic novels. Every slip is a chance to win a grand prize! Plus Fandom Fridays every fourth Friday from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

- **Adults! Exercise your Mind.** Celebrate reading Fill out an entry for each book you read June 13 - July 14. Weekly prizes! Ends with a Book Lover's Party Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 pm. Al and David Eicher will present **The Orphan Train in Michigan.** 12,500 orphans were placed in Michigan from 1854 to 1927 Winner for the Grand prize will be drawn this night! Register at <http://bit.ly/bdbooklover2016>.



- **Every County has a Story!** Planning a staycation or long weekend? Join us Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm to hear Barb Vandermole draw from her book, *Discovering Michigan County by County*, sharing stories about each of the 83 counties in Michigan.
- **NEW BOOK RELEASE PARTY, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.** Join us to get sorted, compete in trivia, and so much more! Feel free to dress as your favorite Harry Potter character. Finish the night by purchasing your copy of the book at Midnight when it officially goes on sale! *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is the unofficial 8th book in the Harry Potter Series. Recommended for children ages 9 and up. July 30 book release at midnight.
- **Ride for Life Charity Motorcycle Rde** to benefit Relay for Life of Bedford Saturday, August 20, 2016 Registration fee (*in advance*) \$20 single \$25 double Day of registration \$30 single \$35 double. More information and registration at <http://bit.ly/mclsridesforlife>. ■



### Videos on Bedford Website

[www.bedfordmi.org](http://www.bedfordmi.org)

Now 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.



## From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Greg W. Stewart  
Bedford Township  
Supervisor

# Have a Fun, Safe and Green Summer

When I first was elected Supervisor, I had a lot of ideas that I hoped would offer this great community a better atmosphere in which to live, literally.

I found that the **leaf burning issue** here in Bedford is one of the most evenly divided and passionate issues we have. Looking

for some way to begin reducing the need for burning, The Board approved a plan to bring in dumpsters to collect resident's yard waste. The bins are placed Saturday and Sundays behind the



Bedford Township Hall in the months of April-May, October-November. This service is for leaves, small branches (*3 inches around*). No bushes, plastic bags or trees please. This service is for residents, this is not for commercial dumping. The Bedford Township does pay for this service out of a budget set aside to help our community. We are utilizing a local service that recycles the leaves. We continue to look for ways to lessen the impact on our citizens. There are many with asthma and other issues that literally make them prisoners in their own homes. Please be considerate and obey the ordinances that are in place, understand that the Michigan Department of Health continues to regulate and tighten air pollutants. I will behoove us to be proactive in the future to find a long term solution that everyone can live with.

The County has a program called "**Recycle Now**" and having worked in the past with the County in recycling efforts, it was a

natural fit to bring their program to Bedford. It works, and yes I was leery of ending up with a sofa in our parking lot, but it works. Presently the recycle bins are located at Temperance Road School every Tuesday. This service is for only items that hold food, beverages, bleach or detergent. Please rinse and flatten #1- #7 recyclable items, plastic, mixed paper, glass (*clear or colored*), milk and juice cartons, cereal boxes, steel cans, newspapers, magazines, all types of office paper, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, card board and broken down aluminum and tin. Plastic bags can be recycled at many grocery stores, but please not in the bins. Unacceptable items like Styrofoam, garbage, motor oil, pesticide and paint not only are items that show up, but could cause us the loss of this valuable service.



This program is a great example of the County, the Schools and the Township working together. This is a free service for our Bedford residents; it is funded through the waste facilities that pay to dump in landfills. By watching what we put in the bins and breaking appropriate materials down we all can benefit for years to come.

Quality water has never been a concern until recently. With the Water crisis of 2014 it made the importance of working together as a community and as a region clear. As a member of the Toledo Area Council of Governments (*TMACOG*) executive committee and a part of the water quality committee, I am dedicated to solve the short term solution for reliable drinking water. Working with South County Water has helped me understand and be able to work with our regional partners to find a lasting solution. I was proud of our Fire Department and our community reacting so quickly when the crisis happened, but we need to take action now to assure that this does not happen again.

Everyone is concerned with mosquitos, but the real question is what to do. Many Township Board members have done research to find out the truth about what a Township can do to help this growing concern. Spraying from the street for example is ineffective, the range of the spray and the wind dissipates the chemicals quickly, and insecticides kill adults and not larva. Finally the environmental regulations over the years have forced the use of a

less effective formula than we had in the 90's. We have even talked to "**Crop Dusters**" about an aerial approach which brings with it even more problems. The best defense is to kill the larva and to make the public aware of the individual actions



they can take to keep themselves and their family safe.

Here are a few things everyone can do to help. Empty any containers, pots, barrels, baskets, or any other container holding water. Keep your ditches clear of leaves, sticks, ashes or



trash. (*It is against the ordinance to burn in the ditch.*) Keep your lawns mowed and weeded. If you have ponds, woods with standing water, or other areas with standing water we have Mosquito Dunks (*floating sustained-release larvicide for long-term control of mosquito larvae*) at the Bedford Township Hall at no cost to our residents. This is for standing water only they will not work in water that moves. As home owners there are several pesticides at stores you can buy and spray on your own. There are companies that offer their service also we do not have any information on any company their service or pricing you would have to research this on your own.

*With a little effort we all can have a fun, safe and green summer!*



# Floods In Bedford Township?

By The Bedford Township Planning Department

**F**or 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 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 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 that 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 at **734.847.6791**.



**Bedford Township**

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TEMPERANCE, MI  
PERMIT NO. 65

**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
BEDFORD TOWNSHIP**

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
2016-2017 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 Board .....	Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of even numbered months • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
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 (Park) at 6:30 p.m.

- **All** meeting times are at **7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated.
- **All** meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall • 8100 Jackman Road • Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The **Library Advisory Board** meetings are held at the **Bedford 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: Greg W. Stewart, Supervisor • 8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H • Temperance, MI 48182.* You may also contact **Supervisor, Greg W. Stewart** by calling **(734) 847-6791, ext.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.**