



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XIV • ISSUE II • SUMMER 2013

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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 H
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
Chris Renius	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: Greg W. Stewart
Bedford Township Supervisor

On the Roads...Again!

Well, I received literally hundreds of responses to my call to talk, and the number one issue was roads. The good news is that we are looking to increase next year's road budget to \$651,000⁰⁰, representing 15% of our total general fund budget. The bad news is that it is already committed.

Commitments for Lewis Avenue, Rauch, Erie, Summerfield, and Smith Roads and more have used up our budget. Now don't get me wrong forward thinking gives us the ability to act when opportunities for federal and state funding comes along, but it makes it tuff on the immediate problems.

Right now we are planning for road work that would be started in 2014 and 2015. I know that seems like forever but if we are ever going to make headway towards decent, not great, but decent roads throughout the Township we need to build a set of standards and criteria to prioritize, then seek any source available to assist in funding.

If there is one issue that unites us, it is the roads. I know your concerns are not frivolous; we have some really terrible roads. I wish I had the authority and the township had the resources to address every complaint, but we don't. What we have is a Township Board determined to do what we can, in funding and in working with anyone that will listen.

Please continue to talk to us, let us know about the roads and help us identify the worst of the worst. We will keep looking for ways to make them better.

Ok, on a brighter subject, I am pleased to announce that we have a new supervising officer for ordinance, Dave Meyer has joined us. We will be working hard to streamline ordinance complaints and to assure fair and consistent enforcement.

Lastly I want to mention that despite my efforts to get back to the many letters and emails I received, I know I did not get to them all. In fact any that had to do with certain categories such as burning, and other ordinance issues I purposely have waited to respond. I would rather have the facts, do the research, and have things in place rather than give out a "feel good" answer that may not happen.

As I drive these roads, to inspect a complaint about blight, or get to see kids enjoying our parks. When I get the opportunity to thank our senior volunteers, or when I get a call for help, I know this; We are all in this together. ■



Building & Zoning News

Bedford Township Building Department

It is once again that time of year when residents are looking to get outdoors to make those property improvements they have been planning throughout the winter months. While many improvements do not require a submitted plan for review, approval, and an issued building permit, there are those improvements that do. And while a building permit may not be required, there are zoning ordinances that shall be adhered to. If you plan to install a pool, fence, deck, or accessory building (shed, detached garage, pole barn), you can reference the Bedford Township Zoning Ordinance at www.bedfordmi.org, Ordinances, 400.1912 for fencing and 400.1903 for accessory buildings. You can also find permit applications on our website. Should you have further inquiries regarding installation and construction issues, please contact the Bedford Township Building Department at 734-224-7330. Also, please remember, there are sign placement regulations for garage sale and other temporary signs, which can be referenced under Section 400.1922. ■



Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

Check out the new reader's advisory service from your Monroe County Library System!

Sign up for our NextReads e-newsletters and get great book and movie suggestions by email. Newsletter links let you check availability and place requests directly in our catalog! Visit our Books page for more information on the newsletters and other great resources for your next favorite book at http://monroe.lib.mi.us/books_movies_music/books.htm.

Summer is rapidly approaching and your Bedford Branch Library is gearing up! Check out the great programs offered this summer!

Bedford Branch Library Anime Convention
Sunday June 23 • 12:00 Noon - 8:00 PM
All Day All Things Anime! Movies, Video Game Tournaments, Cos-Play Contests, Author Visits, Panels, and more!

Summer Reading Club for Adults
June 10 - July 26

Join us for this special summer reading club for adults. It's easy! Fill out an entry form for each book you read this summer, drop it in the entry box, and we will randomly pull an entry each week for a prize. All entries will be submitted for the grand prize basket drawing at the end of the six-week club. The more you read, the greater your chance of winning!

Book Lover's Mystery Party
Thursday, July 18 • 7:00 PM

Calling all Book Lovers! Let's wrap up the Summer Reading Club for Adults with a night of intrigue at your library. Don your deerstalker and join us to solve our own Bedford Falls mystery. Using your reading knowledge, you will track down clues to solve

the mystery. Food, fun, and prizes for all! Register at <http://bit.ly/MysteryPartyBD>.

Registration for SRP begins May 28.
Summer Reading Program kick off for all school-aged children June 11 • 6:30 PM

- Dig into Reading • Tuesday at 6:30 PM
- Dig into Reading • Movie • Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM
- Dig into Reading • School Age Book Club • Thursdays at 1:00 PM • Kindergarten - First Graders
- Dig into Reading • School Age Book Club • Thursdays at 2:00 PM • Second - Third Graders
- Dig into Reading • School Age Book Club • Thursdays at 3:00 PM • Fourth - Fifth Graders
- Preschool Story time • Thursdays at 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM (pick one time)
- Toddler Time • Saturdays at 10:00 AM



Remember to check the library's website at <http://www.mymcls.com> for more information about any library related program. Stop in and see us for some great reads for the summer and don't forget to check out audiobooks for your summer road trips! ■



The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Special Assessment Districts

A Special Assessment District is composed of property and parcel owners within a given geographic area who wish to improve their road, add sewer or water service, or streetlights which will benefit each of the owners in that district. In each case the Township is simply a facilitator between residents of that district and either the road commission, drain commission, or utility.

We have, through the help of our attorneys and the (MTA) Michigan Township Association, come up with a method that is both fair and clear, in performing our task as facilitators. Residents in a geographic district come to the Township Hall to request a petition form, which they need to complete with the correct wording, which we will help them to do. They then must circulate the petition obtaining signatures from residents in that geographic area comprised of more than 50% of the land area, and more than 50% of the parcel owners.

Once we receive the petition and confirm it does indeed have valid signatures for more than 50% of the land area and parcel owners, the Township will schedule an informal meeting, and notify all the residents in the district, in writing, of this meeting.

At this meeting an estimate of costs is presented by either our engineer or Road or Drain Commission, depending on the type of project. Up to this point there are no costs to the resident. If, after this informal meeting, there is enough interest to proceed, a public hearing is scheduled before the Township Board. Everyone in the district is again notified in writing of this public hearing, and at this meeting the Township

Board will vote for or against the establishment of the district. Should the Township Board vote to establish the district, COSTS begin to be incurred, which includes all engineering costs and legal costs to date. Residents in the district have until this first public hearing to add their name to the petition, or take their name off the petition. If enough property owners remove their names from the petition to cause the number of signatures to go below the required 50%, the petition is no longer valid and the process stops. However, once the public hearing is held and the district is established we must continue the process.

A second public hearing is held 30 days after the first public hearing, at which time the tax roll is established. Again, all property owners in the district will receive notice by mail of this hearing. Once the Township Board votes to establish the tax roll, the assessment is added to the tax roll for all of the owners of that district, and depending on whether the special assessment district is for road improvement, sewer or water lines, or streetlights, the actual installation/improvement is handled by that entity.

My goal in this article is to make it clear that the township and the clerk's department are the facilitators in the process and little more. I hope this explanation will help any township residents interested in a special assessment district gain some insight into what, we as facilitators, do. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my staff at 734-224-7323.

Election News

Bedford Township held a small election on May 7, 2013 for the Bedford residents in the Ida School and Erie-Mason School districts. This election affected approximately 100 voters. Both school districts had the 18 mill non-homestead renewal millage issue on their ballots and both issues passed. Although we had to have two precincts open for the election, only one person came to the polls to vote and we had 2 residents vote absentee.

I have received word from the Bedford Schools they are not planning to have any elections this year, so as I mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, we will not be voting on any issues

until 2014. The only exception would be if the State Legislature decided to hold an election in either August or November for a millage issue.

In 2014 we will be having two scheduled elections, one in August and one in November. These elections will be to elect a candidate for Governor, State Representative, some State Senators, and County Commissioners, no local offices will be on the ballot. ■



Bedford Park Board News

By: John Mohr, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn & Joan Schockman

Fireworks!

The 2013 Bedford's Fireworks Display will be held on Friday, June 28, with a rain date of Saturday, June 29, at the Bedford Community Stadium. Save the date for one of the best FREE entertainment opportunities this summer!!



Samaria Day

This year's Samaria Day will be held on Saturday, June 8. It's a day long garage sale, held on Samaria Road between Jackman Road and Lewis Avenue. There will be food and entertainment available. The Samaria Community Center may be utilized for this event.

Garage Sale Day

This year's Temperance Action Committee's Garage Sale Day will be held on Saturday, September 7 at Carr's Grove Park. This is another great event, with lots of things to buy, and food and entertainment available as well.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

The Temperance Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at Carr's Grove Park, on Sunday, December 1. The Samaria Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at Samaria Community Center, on Friday, November 28. Santa Claus, food and entertainment will be available at both of these events. ■

What About A Community Garden?

By Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

I have traveled around to beautiful communities in Michigan, and in many other states in this wonderful United States of America. We are so fortunate to live in a country that is rich with innovative, creative and resourceful citizens. I am praying Bedford Township is eager to become one of those forward-thinking communities.

One idea that I am pursuing, is a community garden. I have researched it on the Internet and have found many, many community gardens in townships throughout Michigan. Park Township, Chikaming Township, Meridian Township, Vancouver just to name a few. If you are interested you might want to check these out or any of the others and see how they operate theirs.

I was looking into opening one in Bedford in the area behind the firemen's practice tower behind Township Hall. The possibilities are endless :

At this point the community garden is simply an idea one that I hope will flourish and become a reality. However, we need to have input from you, the public. Please contact me at ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org with your thoughts. A few questions that we will need answers are:

1. Would you be interested in being on a committee to organize a community garden?
2. Would you want to have a plot in the community garden?

3. Have you been involved in another community garden?
4. What other ideas do you have that would move Bedford Township forward?

I look forward to your contribution. Great communities are created by their great residents! ■



Please address all correspondence for Nancy Tienvieri to:
Bedford Township Government Center
8100 Jackman Road, P. O. Box H
Temperance, MI 48182
Phone: 734.847.6791 ext. 7344 • Email: ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org



Treasurer's Department Update

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer

2013 SUMMER TAX BILLS

2013 Summer Tax Bills will be printed in house, and mailed out around July 1. They are due and payable on or before September 14, 2013 (September 16 due to weekend) without interest being assessed. On September 17 a 1% interest charge will be added to your unpaid tax bill and an additional 1% will 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 announce that debit card, credit card, and electronic check payments will now be accepted. Detailed information is explained later in this update. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of Monroe Bank & Trust, Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch), and Citizens Bank/First Merit Bank (Temperance Branch).

Senior citizens (age 62 and over), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of 2013 summer taxes if household resources (taxable and non-taxable income) are \$40,000⁰⁰ or less. The deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the township before September 14. If you qualify, payment of your summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2014 without any penalty or interest. Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Office at (734) 847-6791, ext. 7342 for the required form and/or information regarding the deferment process.

SEWER & WATER INFORMATION

Secondary Water Meters: If you are connected to the South County Water System and you are planning to water your lawn or fill your swimming pool this summer, you should consider having a secondary water meter installed to monitor the water 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 more than offset this cost. Contact the South County Water System at (734) 847-0579 for further information and specific details.

DEBIT & CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS NOW ACCEPTED!!

The Bedford Township Treasurer's Department is now 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. Convenience (user) fees will be charged by a third party vendor (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 \$1⁵⁰ per \$50⁰⁰ increment will be charged; for electronic check payments (online), a user fee of \$3⁰⁰ for payments up to \$10,000⁰⁰, plus \$10⁰⁰ for payments in excess of \$10,000⁰⁰ 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. E-check payments can only be made online by using our township website.

PLEASE NOTE: Because we are a separate entity from the South County Water System, we are still 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.



Continued Governance... The Government Connection

By Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

Bedford Township is a member of the Michigan Township Association (MTA) which serves over 1200 townships throughout Michigan. As members we receive a monthly magazine called Michigan Township News. Each month it is filled with articles that educate, inform, challenge and inspire the township officials who read it to become more knowledgeable and passionate about the job they have been elected to do.

I read an article in the May MTA News written by Larry Merrill, Executive Director, entitled "Local Democracy Thrives on a Culture of Trust". His article caused me to do some inner searching to determine - do Bedford Township constituents have trust in their elected officials?

To quote Mr. Merrill, "Distrusting government is arguably part of the American DNA...Trust is not created by public officials simply avoiding controversial issues and being timid in action and deed. Trust requires clarity of intent and consistently demonstrating competency by practicing transparency and providing citizens opportunities to directly participate in public policy discussion and government services."

If elected officials want the public to trust them, they must in turn demonstrate trust in the public they serve by listening and responding to the public's needs for improved infrastructure, communication, and responsibly handling the public's dollars. Trust comes by building a relationship. Trust is not automatic it is earned.

So those of us who are elected to serve must strive to earn the trust of our constituents. We do that by applying what Mr. Merrill has so aptly stated - making our intentions extremely clear, and consistently demonstrating competency by practicing transparency in all our decisions. Our township meetings are broadcast on the Bedford cable channel and soon to be on our web site. But simply televising our deliberations does not make the governmental body transparent. We must publically vocalize our ideas, share our views, and make decisions in the best interest of the public and not ourselves. We must connect with the views of those we serve regardless of politics.

Maybe our American DNA does have an element of distrust of our government and rightfully so due to inefficiencies at all levels of government. But I believe we have an opportunity to turn that around in Bedford. We must pledge to earn the confidence of those we serve. I challenge you, the public to hold us accountable; let us know by calling, writing or emailing each of the seven (7) Township Board members who serve in Bedford. Let us know what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong in your view. You can find our contact information at bedfordmi.org or in the township newsletter the UPDATE. I look forward to hearing from you! ■



Nancy Tienvieri

The Township Website

By Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

This is just a reminder to check out the township website (www.bedfordmi.org) to see all of the township information available to you.

- If you want to rent any of the park shelters or either of the community centers, go to the website first to see if the date you have in mind is available, all scheduled usage is listed and the information is updated daily.
- Want to know what's going on in the Bedford community? All township or park events are now listed on the site as well.
- We now have information regarding pricing for the purchase of cemetery grave lots as well as a map of the new Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery.
- Interested in what's on the agenda for township board meetings, or want to read the approved minutes from previous meetings? Check it out; we have all of that information listed. The Park board, Planning Commission, and BZA board have their approved minutes on the website as well.

- Do you want to know the burning regulations for the township? They're on the website.
- Information on who is serving on the various township boards and commissions, when they meet, and an application is available if you wish to sign up to serve on a board or commission.
- Information is available on taxes, assessments, taxable values on properties, as well.
- We have some information listed regarding the parks in Bedford and the amenities available, and now that the weather is getting better and warmer, we will have more recent photos of the parks included on our site.



These are just a few of the items we have on the township website; we are adding new info as quickly as possible. If you have any ideas about what you would like added to the site, please contact me at 734-224-7323. ■

Contact Your Trustee

The Township Trustees now have individual email accounts for better communication with Bedford residents. The full-time Township officials have always had their own separate emails for residents to contact from the web site, or through their email. Now the Trustees also can be contacted through email. Their email addresses are:

- Larry O'Dell..... lodell@bedfordmi.org
- Paul Pirrone ppirrone@bedfordmi.org
- Rick Steiner rsteiner@bedfordmi.org
- Nancy Tienvieri..... ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or just want to stay in touch feel free to send your email to any one or all of the above addresses. ■

THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE



The philosopher, Aristotle, said, "Nature abhors a vacuum." When it comes to weeds, no truer words were ever spoken. Just a bit of bare soil and they're off and running. But over time you can minimize the problem by following these tips:

- Eliminate weeds when they are little before they go to seed! Annual plants (those that die completely each year, such as chickweed and crab grass) will not reproduce without seeds.
- Till the soil as little as possible. Tilling brings seeds to the surface where they will sprout.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch. Not only will this help retain moisture in the soil around your plants but prevent weed seeds from sprouting. Those that do will be easier to pull.
- Thoroughly eliminate all roots of perennial weeds (those plants that winter over and return every year, such as dandelions). Application of herbicides that kill from the top green down to the root is effective but take care to avoid any splashing, wind drift, or tracking on your shoes on any nearby desirable plants.
- Consider using pre-emergence herbicides that prevent seeds from sprouting. Just remember that such herbicides will also eliminate seeds from those favorite annual plants that return every year in your garden. ■

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. To reach Township offices and staff please call:

734.847.6791

and then the extension shown below.

SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT

Greg W. Stewart..... Supervisor	7321
Kim Pollins..... Administrative Assistant	7322

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT 7323

Trudy Hershberger.... Clerk	7328
Garnet Francis..... Deputy Clerk	7334
Nancy Gin..... Part-Time	7320
Barb Martin..... Part-Time	7320

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.....7342

Paul R. Francis.....Treasurer	7324
Krista Jandasek.....Deputy Treasurer	7327
Cindy Baum..... Administrative Assistant	7352
Amy Hogberg..... Utility Clerk	7332
Pam Andrews.....Part-Time	7339

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

David Manning..... Finance Director	7325
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PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT 7331

Karen Kincaid.....Planning Department	7337
Roger Dindyal.....Planning Department	7335

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 7330

Building Department Counter	7343
Dennis Kolar.....Building Official	7336
Linda Willing..... Administrative Assistant (Part-Time) .	7330
Steve Carnill..... Part-Time	7345
Bernie Zarb..... Part-Time	7346

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT 7353

Chris Renius.....Assessor	7326
Alan Matlow.....Assessing	7329

ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Dave Meyer.....Supervisor	7350
Shayla Pitzen..... Ordinance Officer.....	7341

TRUSTEE OFFICE 7344

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant.....	7314
Detective.....	7315
Detective.....	7316
Deputy.....	7317
Deputy.....	7318
Deputy.....	7319



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**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
 2013 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month
Beautification Committee	Meets 2 nd Thursday of each month
Board of Review	Meets in March and possibly in July and December
Board of Zoning Appeals	Meets 1 st Monday of each month
Cablevision Committee	Meets as needed
Economic Development Corporation	Meets 1 st Thursday of each month
Fire Commission	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month • Fire Station • 7016 Lewis Avenue
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4 th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month
Park Commission	Meets 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month
Downtown Development Authority	Meets 1 st Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m.
Temperance Action Committee (TAC)	Meets 1 st Monday of Each Month • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Lambertville Pride Committee	As Needed
Samaria Heritage Committee	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month • Samaria Hall (Park) at 6:30 p.m.

- **All** meeting times are at **7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise stated.
- **All** meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall • 8100 Jackman Road • Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The **Library Advisory Board** meetings are held at the **Bedford 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.7322**.

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.