

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP
THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XXV • ISSUE I • SPRING 2024

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We're on the Web
www.bedfordmi.org

Visit Us At The:
Bedford Township Hall
8100 Jackman Road
Temperance, Michigan 48182

Telephone: 734.847.6791
Fax: 734.847.7809

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

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

TOWNSHIP OFFICE DIRECTORY

Dial 734-224-_____
and the extension or email address shown)

Supervisor's Office.....7321
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor
ppirrone@bedfordmi.org

Clerk's Department.....7320
Trudy L. Hershberger, Clerk
thershberger@bedfordmi.org

Treasurer's Department....7342
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer
kjandasek@bedfordmi.org

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Building Department.....7330
Dennis Kolar, Building Official
dkolar@bedfordmi.org

Assessing Department 7353

Ordinance Department ... 7350
Damon Cecil, Supervisor
dcecil@bedfordmi.org

Trustee's Office.....
Todd Bruning
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Joe Gore
jgore@bedfordmi.org
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cmontri@bedfordmi.org
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rsteiner@bedfordmi.org

Fire Department..734.847.2359
Bob Vanklingeren, Fire Chief
bvanklingeren@bedfordmi.org

Sheriff's Department
Bedford Township
Non-Emergency..734.847.6146
Emergency..... 911
(Bedford Substation Officers)
Lieutenant.....7315
Detective 7316
Deputy.....7318

Monroe County
Non-Emergency..734.243.7070

Bedford Township Offices Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays:

Good Friday
Friday, March 29, 2024
at Noon

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27 2024
(Closed all day)

Graphic and Printing Services provided by Bedford Township Residents!



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: Paul Pirrone, Bedford Township Supervisor

Where Friends Meet
The Bedford Senior Community Center

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight our **Senior Center** and the services they provide for our residents. This center has been such an asset to Bedford Township and its residents for so many years. Bedford is fortunate to have a center when so many communities do not. The mission statement for The **Bedford Senior Community Center** states that it is "dedicated to providing the highest quality recreational, social and supportive services to mature adults. It is our goal to foster a warm environment where individuals can explore and enjoy activities and services designed to promote health and welfare of the 55+ population while fostering their independence." **Celia Apodaca**, **Executive Director** of the center and her staff adheres to this mission every day. Celia has done an outstanding job of running the center and making it a great place for Seniors.



The **Bedford Senior Citizens Program** began in 1970, when the Bedford Public Schools adopted the philosophy of community education and hired a director to develop a community curriculum with programs and services for all ages. During the first year, programs and activities were sponsored for the seniors and plans were developed for a permanent Senior Center. Plans became a reality when the seniors moved into their Center, the former Samaria School, provided by the Bedford Board of Education. A $317,100 addition to the building through a Federal Grant was added in 1977. Over the last several years updates have been made to the building and a new kitchen is in the works with funding provided by the **American Rescue Plan Act**.

Executive Director, Celia Apodaca with her years of experience working with senior populations has brought many new ideas and programs to the center. Some of the new programs include: **Rock Art Painting**, **Corn Hole**, **Veteran Recognitions**, and **Craft Day**, just to name a few. Also, if you like to travel, they arrange for some amazing trips. The Senior Center on any given day is bustling with activities and they are always looking for new things to offer.

Existing programs include: **educational seminars from outside vendors**, **one-on-one consultations for Medicare**, **medical screenings**, many of which are free to participants. In addition, **counseling**, **health screening**, **referral services for various agencies**, **legal services**, **outreach**, **volunteer opportunities**, **Monroe County Library in Motion Lending Library**, and **Internet access**. One of the most vital services the center administers for Bedford seniors is the **Meals on Wheels** program. Volunteers delivered over 25,000 meals in 2023, and in addition, they served over 9,800 lunches at the center. If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity **Meals on Wheels** is a good one. Not only do you deliver a meal, you make someone's day with a little conversation and a smile.

If you are looking to have lunch and be in the company of others then come and enjoy a hot nutritious lunch. **Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**, **Monday** through **Friday** at the Center. These meals are provided on a suggested donation basis of **$3.00**. Reservations must be called in every day between **8:15 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** by calling **734.856.3330**. If you love history, lunch with the Seniors is a great time to learn about Bedford and life in general. So many of our Citizens have been in Bedford for years and have many stories to tell and pass on to others.

Many wonder how the center is maintained financially. The **Monroe County Senior Citizens Millage** provides the largest percentage of the total operating budget for the Bedford Senior programs. The **Bedford Senior Community Center** also receives funding through Bedford Township and United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties. Other sources include: USDA-Federal Food Reimbursement, Private donations from local citizens, clubs and organizations and membership fund raising. If you are looking to leave money to a charity, the Senior Citizen Center could be the place.

The center is located at **1653 Samaria Road**, **Temperance 48182**. If you have questions please call **734.856.3330** and if you need a ride to the Senior Center call **Bedford Dial-A-Ride** at **888.664.5984**. I hope to see you at lunch someday at the **Bedford Senior Community Center**. ■

The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk



• ELECTIONS • DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES •
• TOWNSHIP CEMETERY CLEAN-UP •

Who's That Knocking At My Door

In Bedford Township we would like the residents to be aware that anyone going door-to-door for the purpose of selling goods or services is **REQUIRED** to first obtain a permit with the Township. A **SOLICITOR**, or **PEDDLER**, who is interested in working in Bedford Township, must *1)* complete an application, *2)* submit to a background check, and *3)* pay a fee. All three items must be in place **BEFORE** they are allowed to visit our residents. Each applicant, upon issuance of a permit, is then supplied with a yellow permit, signed by the **Bedford Township Clerk** and a copy of the **Bedford Township Ordinance**, detailing what is allowed.



Three things in our ordinance that we like to point out to those who obtain the permit are:

- **NO** solicitor, peddler or transient merchant shall call upon, without an appointment, at any dwelling or place of business where there is a sign displayed saying: **"NO SOLICITING"**, **"NO PEDDLING"**, **"NO SALESMAN"** or **"NO TRESPASSING"**.
- **NO PEDDLER**, **SOLICITOR** or **SOLICITOR FOR NON-BUSINESS PURPOSE** shall solicit at any residence within the Township on any day prior to 10:00 a.m., nor after 6:00 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time, nor after 8:00 p.m. during Michigan Daylight Savings Time, nor on any Sunday or legal holiday, except upon prior specific request of an occupant of the residence.
- **NO PEDDLER** or **SOLICITOR** shall engage in peddling or soliciting without carrying the license issued under the terms of this Ordinance.

Individuals exempt from carrying a permit include:

- Individuals under 18 years of age selling for a school, charity or religious organization.
- Persons canvassing, passing out printed materials, or obtaining signatures for a political candidate or political issue.
- Individuals passing out religious tracts.

PEDDLERS MUST CARRY THEIR PERMIT AT ALL TIMES AND BE ABLE TO FURNISH IT UPON REQUEST.

A list of all **Peddlers** who have been issued permits can be found on our township website **www.bedfordmi.org**, under the **Residents** tab. If you have any questions or concerns about an individual or group soliciting in your area you can always call the **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** at **734.224.7350**. ■

Upcoming Election Dates

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 6, 2024.....7a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
(Early voting July 27, 2024 thru August 4, 2024)

GENERAL ELECTION

November 5, 2024.....7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(Early voting October 26, 2024 thru November 3, 2024)

PLEASE NOTE: there **WILL NOT** be a May election as no ballot proposals were filed.■

Cemetery Clean Up

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP will be conducting a spring clean-up of all our cemeteries. If there is anything at a loved one's grave that you would like to hang on to, you are asked to remove it **BEFORE March 15, 2024**. The Township will remove **EVERYTHING** from the graves including; shepherd hooks, flowers, wreaths, blankets, pillows, etc. and dispose of them between **March 15** and **May 1**, weather permitting. If you have any questions, you can call the **Clerk's office** at **734-224-7320**. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP ZONING/BUILDING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Floods in Bedford Township?

For most Bedford residents, thoughts of flood disasters are probably the last thing on their 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.

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 currents status.

There may be existing homes in Bedford Township that are in a 100-year flood zone that do not have flood insurance. 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. Should your area have flooding and/or standing water issues, you may contact the Building Department (734-224-7330) and request a site visit to assess the situation.

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 **FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps** (FIRM) for the Township. Township personnel can assist you in reading the maps, provide you with basic information found on the map panel, assist in locating your subject property on the map and, if needed, provide flood insurance information. As well, staff can 1) provide basic information found on a FIRM that is needed to write a flood insurance policy, 2) provide non-insurance rating information that appears on the community's FIRM, 3) provide information about flood problems other than those shown on the FIRM, 4) provide information about flood depths, 5) provide information about a special flood related hazard that does not appear on the FIRM, 6) provide information about past flooding at or near the site in question and 7) provide flood depth when available. Bedford Township can 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, & 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 the Bedford Township Planning/Zoning Department at 734.224-7331 or on the website at www.bedfordmi.org ■

Bedford Branch Library News

By: Jodi Russ, Bedford Branch Librarian

Spring is full of possibilities and your library is here to support you in your search for information, education and recreation. Stop in and see us at the library or at the **Bedford Trade Fair**. You'll be surprised by what your library has to offer.

- We are celebrating several milestones this year so watch for information as the year unfolds. We kickoff the celebrations with a happy birthday to the **Bedford Branch Library**, which was formed 50 years ago, in 1974, when the Temperance and Lambertville locations merged into one branch at our current site on Jackman Road. We will be celebrating the **50th year of library service** out of the **Bedford Branch** during **National Library Week**, **April 7–13, 2024**.



Cool things happening this spring:



- **March 10 is Mario Day!** Kids, tweens and teens are invited to join us for our Mario Party at 2pm for games, crafts and prizes. Costumes are encouraged! Registration is required.
- **March 11 6pm Adult DIY – Calling all crafters!** All supplies are provided to create a different craft at each event. Registration is required.
- **March 13 6pm Warrior Lawyers: Defenders of Sacred Justice** – View the documentary movie about Native American role models, Nation re-building, and Tribal justice with a Q&A session with the filmmaker to follow.
- **March 16 Electric Vehicle Forum 9:30am – 11:30am** Interested in EVs? Join us to hear from experts, including EV owners, about their experiences. Local dealerships will have EVs on-site. *(Made possible by the federal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning Grant provided to Monroe County Community College and the cities of Monroe and Luna Pier by SEMCOG.)*
- **March 17 at 2pm Travel with Friends to Iceland** as Lois and Jen share their pictures and thoughts of the land of glaciers and volcanoes.
- **March 28 6pm Researching Indigenous People** – Does your family have a story of an ancestor who was a tribal member? Learn to search for the truth and myths about your connections to **First Nations**.



- **April 7–13 National Library Week!** Events are scheduled throughout the week. Refer to our new calendar of events after March 1 for details and to register.
- **April 7 at 2pm – Barbie Tea!** We welcome Barbie fans, both adult and child, to attend this fun event. Enjoy tea, snacks, games, and our photo booth. Feel free to dress in costume and bring a doll.



- **April 8 from 1:30 – 5pm – Total Solar Eclipse Viewing Party**! We will provide snacks, educational activities, and a limited quantity of eclipse viewing glasses. You provide a blanket or lawn chair to watch the main event. The Eclipse begins around **1:56 p.m.**, peaks around **3:13 p.m.** and ends around **4:27 p.m.**.
- **Need help with tech skills?** Register for Electronics Education, a series of events to help you learn or improve your digital skills. This begins April 9 and happens each Tuesday for one hour, beginning at 1pm.



- **If you're looking for an easy way to get into gardening, consider "checking out" a garden bed at the library!** Use your library card and "borrow" a raised bed, located on the north side of the library property, where you can grow flowers, herbs, vegetables or fruits and see how green your thumb is without the fuss of doing it at your home!
- Our **Friends of the Bedford Library** are a major source of support for library programming and things needed to serve the community. They run a used book store in the library that's open all hours the library is open and all proceeds go directly back into the **Bedford Branch Library**. Our Friends take donations of good condition books for all ages, as well as DVDs and music CDs. Please remember us when you have items to donate. Books you may have had for your kids are a perfect donation and sell fast out of the book store. All sales are by donation and suggested pricing is exceptionally reasonable. The Friends are always looking for new members, too. Join them on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm at their regular meeting. Being a member is a great way to support your library. ■

Property Tax Info and More!

Treasurer's Department News

By: Krista Jandasek, Bedford Township Treasurer



Property Tax Information at Your Finger Tips

If you have an escrow account, your year-end mortgage statement will list the amounts that have been paid for your **2023 Property Taxes**.

You can also use the township website, **www.bedfordmi.org**, click on the **Property/Tax Information tab** just below the picture and information tab *(you will have to scroll down)*, 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 Departmen**t at **734.224.7342**.

2024 Sanitary Sewer Rate Information

We were able to maintain the same sewer use rate for 2024 as the rate for 2023. 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.

2024 Current monthly sewer disposal rates are as follows *(billed quarterly)*:

Operations and Maintenance (per 1,000 gallons)	**$ 6.48**
Depreciation (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.)	**$ 2.69**
Debt Service (per Residential Equivalent [R.E.)	**$12.37**

Average 2024 quarterly residential bill, based on a household using 20,000 gallons:

Operations and Maintenance (20,000 gallons)	**$129.60**
Depreciation (3 months)	**$ 8.07**
Debt Service (3 months)	**$ 37.11**
Total Average Quarterly Residential Bill	**$174.78**

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.

Please Note: Delinquent Taxes

If you were unable to pay your property taxes by **February 29, 2024**, the **Township Treasurer** is required by law to transfer them to the **Monroe County Treasurer's Office** for collection proceedings **March 1**. 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 **County Treasurer's Office**. ■

Passport Information

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

THE CLERK'S DEPARTMENT at **Bedford Township** has been a designated passport agency since 2003. We are delighted to be able to assist our residents as well as residents of other communities in acquiring a passport so that they can travel abroad.

The **U. S. Department of State** now issues a **"passport card"** in addition to the **"passport book"**. This **"passport card"** may only be used for land and sea travel to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. It cannot be used for air travel. It is a wallet sized card, and will provide a less expensive, smaller and more convenient alternative for those who travel frequently to the above destinations by land or sea. A passport card is not required for children aged 15 or under to travel by land or sea to Canada, but they do have to have proof of citizenship *(birth certificate)* with them while traveling. The fees for a passport card are as follows:

PASSPORT CARD

	Adults-age 16/over (valid for 10 years)	Age 15/under (valid for 5 years)
Passport Card Fee	$30.00	$15.00
Execution Fee	$35.00	$35.00
Total	$65.00	$50.00

The same information and photo will be required to be submitted as for a regular passport. You will fill out the application, submit a certified copy of your birth certificate, identification *(such as a driver's license)*, and one *(1)* passport photo.

The fees for a regular passport, are listed as follows:

PASSPORT BOOK

	Adults-age 16/over (valid for 10 years)	Age 15/under (valid for 5 years)
Passport Fee	$130.00	$100.00
Execution Fee	$35.00	$35.00
Total	$165.00	$135.00

The fees to the **U.S. Department of State** must be in the form of a check or money order for citizens who wish to apply for a passport at **Bedford Township Hall**. If you wish to have Bedford Township take your passport photos, a $10.00 additional fee will be charged along with the $35.00 execution fee. The $35.00 execution fee and $10.00 fee for photographs can be paid by cash, check, or charge.

All minors under age 16 are required to have a passport to travel out of the United States by air, and need the consent of both parents or legal guardians in order to apply. For further information on this subject, access the **Department of State's** website **www.travel.state.gov**, or contact my office at **734.224.7320**, Clerk's Department.

If you are planning a trip outside of the United States, please allow at least **6 to 8 weeks processing time** for passport applications. If you need a passport sooner than that, you may want to consider expediting your passport application. The U.S. Passport Service will *"expedite"* your application for an extra **$60.00 fee** per application. With this extra fee, your passport application will be processed in **2-3 weeks**.

Passport applications are processed, by appointment only, daily between 9 AM and 4:00 PM in our department. Call the **Bedford Township Clerk's Department** at **734.224.7320** to schedule your appointment. Please note that during election years, like 2024, we do cut back on our available appointments and there may be some blackout weeks surrounding the August Primary and November General elections, so that we can attend to our election duties.

For any other information, you can go to our website, **www.bedfordmi.org** and *"click"* on passport information. From this site you can get general information or access the **U.S. State Department's website**. If you do not have internet access, please call me or one of my staff at **734.224.7320**. ■

Spring Cleaning

By: Douglas Steinman, CFPE, CFI-II, Fire Inspector

Spring cleaning is an annual ritual for many people. The Bedford Township Fire Department reminds homeowners that this can also be the time to make your home safer.

In order to keep your family and home safe, please take time to check your home and yard for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions. Let's begin by checking each room in your home including the attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, and shed.

REMOVE ALL HAZARDS

- Frayed or damaged appliance cords, wiring, fuses, or breakers.
- Remove stacks of paper and magazines: Take advantage of the recycling bins located behind Bedford Township Hall every Tuesday.
- Piles of rubbish, trash, and debris.
- Check for water leaks, especially near electrical appliances.
- Check for good clearances between heating appliances (hot water heater, furnace, electrical panel, dryer, and oven/stover).



Douglas Steinman
Fire Inspector

PROPERLY STORE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND HOME CHEMICALS

- Make sure all chemicals are kept out of the reach of small children and your pets.
- Clean up your work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work related items away and out of the reach from your children.
- Gasoline and cleaning fluids should be well marked and out of the reach of your children and pets. Store in a cool, dry place outside of the home.
- Inventory all home and yard chemicals, paints, and poisons. Store them according to their label. Properly dispose of anything that is expired, leaking, or looks bad-**DO NOT THROW THESE ITEMS IN THE TRASH OR DOWN THE DRAIN**. To properly dispose of these types of items, please refer to: https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/538/Household-Hazardous-Waste-HHW-Collection

CHECK FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Check your smoke detector to ensure they are in good working order. Time to change those batteries.
- Check all fire extinguishers for proper type and placement.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escape.
- Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and easily visible.
- Check your weather radio and change those batteries.
- Make sure you have good, working flashlights.

Come see your **Bedford Township Fire Department** at the **Bedford Trade Fair** on **Saturday, March 9, 2024** from **10:00 am -5:00 pm** at the **Bedford High School** and also, at the **Health, Safety, & Wellness Fair** at the **Francis Family YMCA** on **Thursday, April 18, 2024** from **9:00 am - 1:00 pm**. We will have a booth at both. We hope to see you there. ■

Bedford Township Fire Department Update

By: Bob Vanklingeren, Fire Chief

Dear Residents, Business Owners, and Visitors...

Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful community of Bedford Township for the unwavering support you show us every single day. Throughout the holiday season, your kindness has shone brightly through the cards, handwritten notes, and treats that have been generously shared with our firefighters. Your encouragement fuels our dedication as we strive to promptly and effectively respond to every situation, aiming to make things better with each call.


Chief Vanklingeren

Reflecting on the year gone by, **2023** marked yet another remarkable chapter for the Bedford Township Fire Department. With a staggering **4,073 calls answered**, we've surpassed previous records, a testament to the continuous growth and evolution of our department. Presently, we operate a fleet comprising three (3) advanced life support ambulances, three (3) engines, two (2) brush trucks, one (1) ladder truck, and two (2) quick response vehicles.

Our commitment to your safety is evident in our staffing, with four (4) firefighters on duty around the clock, escalating to six (6) during evenings and weekends to meet peak demands. Additional personnel are strategically deployed during inclement weather or anticipated spikes in call volumes. Notably, our insurance rating places us among the top 9% in the State of Michigan and the top 16% of fire departments nationwide.



Every member of our team undergoes rigorous daily training, ensuring readiness to tackle emergencies across **Bedford Township** and **Monroe County** comprehensively. We meticulously pre-plan for various scenarios, including storms, sporting events, community gatherings, and other potential incidents, prioritizing proactive measures to keep our community safe.



We strongly encourage you to register for the **Monroe County Alert Notification System (MCANS)** via the township website. This invaluable tool will keep you informed about crucial updates and announcements within our community.

Looking ahead to 2024, our focus remains on fostering a safe environment for all. As the yard clean-up season commences, we urge you to review the burning ordinance and refrain from burning on dry or windy days. Even a minor oversight in windy conditions can have devastating consequences, underscoring the importance of caution and adherence to safety guidelines.

In closing, we are eager to embark on another year of serving and safeguarding the residents of **Bedford Township**. Together, let's prioritize safety and community well-being as we navigate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.

Stay Safe, Bedford Township! ■

Bedford Township Park Board Update

By: The Bedford Township Park Board
Park Commissioners:
Carol Laurie, Aaron Adler, Christopher Schlegel,
Andrew Brenot, and Chas Mann

Winter is almost over and the **Bedford Township Park Commission** hopes that residents will take time to enjoy Bedford Township's beautiful parks this Spring. With six parks across the township, residents have so many ways to enjoy a diverse variety of outdoor recreation activities. For those who enjoy a long walk there are newly refurbished walking trails at **Wheeler Nature Preserve** *(Section and Whiteford Center Roads)* and **Ansted Park** *(Lewis Avenue South of Samaria Road)*. Residents with small children can enjoy four different playgrounds across the Township: **Parmelee Park** *(Summerfield Road)* and **Samaria Park** *(Samaria Road east of Jackman)* have playgrounds that are never too crowded, and the playgrounds at **White Park** *(Douglas Road)* and **Carr Park** *(Lewis Avenue)* have new playground equipment that all young children will enjoy.


Ansted Preserve Park

Looking into the future, the **Bedford Township Park Commission** has some big development projects on the horizon. We are extremely excited to be adding new pickleball and tennis courts to **Carr Park** *(Lewis Avenue)*. These should be completed and ready for action within the year. Additionally, with the removal of the old Parmelee Park skateboarding ramp facility, the Park Commission is entertaining some exciting new facility options that will be able to accommodate bicycling, rollerblading, and other activities in addition to skateboarding.

As always, members of the public are highly encouraged to give their input about these projects or any other issues, comments, or questions they may have concerning Bedford's parks. Park Commissioners will be in attendance at the **Bedford Trade Fair** on **Saturday, March 9**, and are eager to hear input from the public. Additionally, the public is always invited to visit a **Park Commission meeting** to learn more about the exciting projects taking place in Bedford Township's parks.

The **Bedford Township Park Commission** meets the **second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM** at the **Bedford Township Hall**, unless otherwise noted, and the Public is always cordially invited to these meetings. ■

Bedford Township Ordinance Department Update

By: Damon Cecil, Ordinance Supervisor

THE SPRING BURN SEASON begins on **April 5, 2024** and runs thru **May 31, 2024** on **WEEKENDS ONLY**. The hours are as follows: **Fridays** from **2:00 p.m.** until **6:00 p.m.**, **Saturday** and **Sunday** hours are from **8:00 a.m.** till **6:00 p.m.**. To report illegal burning please call **Monroe County Central Dispatch** at **734.243.7070**.



The **Bedford Township Ordinance Department** is open Monday thru Friday **8:00 a.m.** til **5:00 p.m.** You can still contact our office any time at **734.224.7350** or **734. 224.7341** and leave a message and we will get back with you as soon as possible regarding your concerns.

Tall Grass Season starts **May 1**. It is a violation to have your grass exceed six (6) inches in height. If you wish to make a complaint regarding tall grass contact **Officer Pitzen** at **734.224.7341** and leave a message.

Please feel free to contact the **Ordinance Department** for answers to your concerns. Residents may call **734.224.7350** or **734.224.7341**. ■

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
2024 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Library Advisory Board	**Meets 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 PM**
Bedford Township Board	**Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM**
Board of Review	**Meets in March and possibly in July and December**
Board of Zoning Appeals	**Meets 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM**
Downtown Development Authority	**Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM**
Housing Commission	**Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM · Ivor Lindsay · 8745 Lewis Avenue**
Park Commission	**Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 PM**
Planning Commission	**Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM**

- **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 of the 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**, **Bedford Township Supervisor**, **8100 Jackman Road**, **Temperance**, **MI 48182**. You may also contact **Bedford Township Supervisor**, **Paul Pirrone** by calling **734.224.7321** during normal business hours.

Bedford Township Board Meetings are broadcast on Buckeye Cable Channel 11 or 7 with a Cable Box the Wednesday after the meeting at 9:00 AM and the following Thursday at 7:00 PM

Come visit our website www.bedfordmi.org and check us out!
You can access the videos of the Township Board Meetings on the website.

You may also subscribe to our YouTube Channel and never miss the Township Board Meeting! You can also watch our Town Hall meetings, informational videos and many other interesting meetings. To subscribe, visit our website at www.bedfordmi.org and *"click"* on the link on the front page. ■