

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182 • VOLUME XV • ISSUE I • SPRING 2014



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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 Tienivieri 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

Snow

Snow removal and the roads are again a major topic of concern here at the Bedford Township Hall. Because there are so many questions I am going to break them down into a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) format.

Q: I understand that the state contracts with each county to maintain the roads, but isn't that contract done with the Monroe Road Commission? Who then is responsible for Bedford Township?

A: The Monroe County Road Commission: The State's contract with them includes money for Bedford maintenance. The basis for this funding from the state is by miles of roads and population. The fifteen Townships are the recipients of the MCRC services; municipalities do not receive MCRC services. The Township owns no roads.

Q: Why isn't the Township plowing the subdivisions?

A: Townships receives no funding directly for roads, all funding for roads goes through the road commission. With no capital dollars for equipment, we have one plow and one truck that can be used for salt. We plow Township Hall, the Library, Three Fire Stations and Township Park facilities. Bedford Schools have more capacity than the Township. The Township Board is talking about putting monies into the 2014-15 budget for contracting for snow removal in emergency situations, but these ideas need to be worked out with the Road Commission also, by law.

Q: It seems that it is just Monroe County that is so bad; why is it a state issue?

A: The state funds all county road commissions but does not oversee their operations as many states do. Ohio and Indiana have a system that involves their Departments of Transportation down to the Township level. What makes it a state issue is that the structure for maintaining roads can only be changed at the state. My personal opinion is that roads should be a major issue in the next state election. The concerns should have a focus on how money is distributed and accountability of those funds.

Bedford's State legislators are:

Dale Zorn • 517-373-2617 • Email: dalewzorn@house.mi.org

Randy Richardville • 517-373-3543 • Email: senrichardville@senate.michigan.gov

To do this right and change the way we do things is a long journey and we have waited too long to take the first steps.

Q: The following pie chart (on page 2) is the percentage breakdown of how my property taxes are divided up, is this breakdown the same for everyone in Bedford Township as well as Monroe County?

SNOW (Continued on page 2)

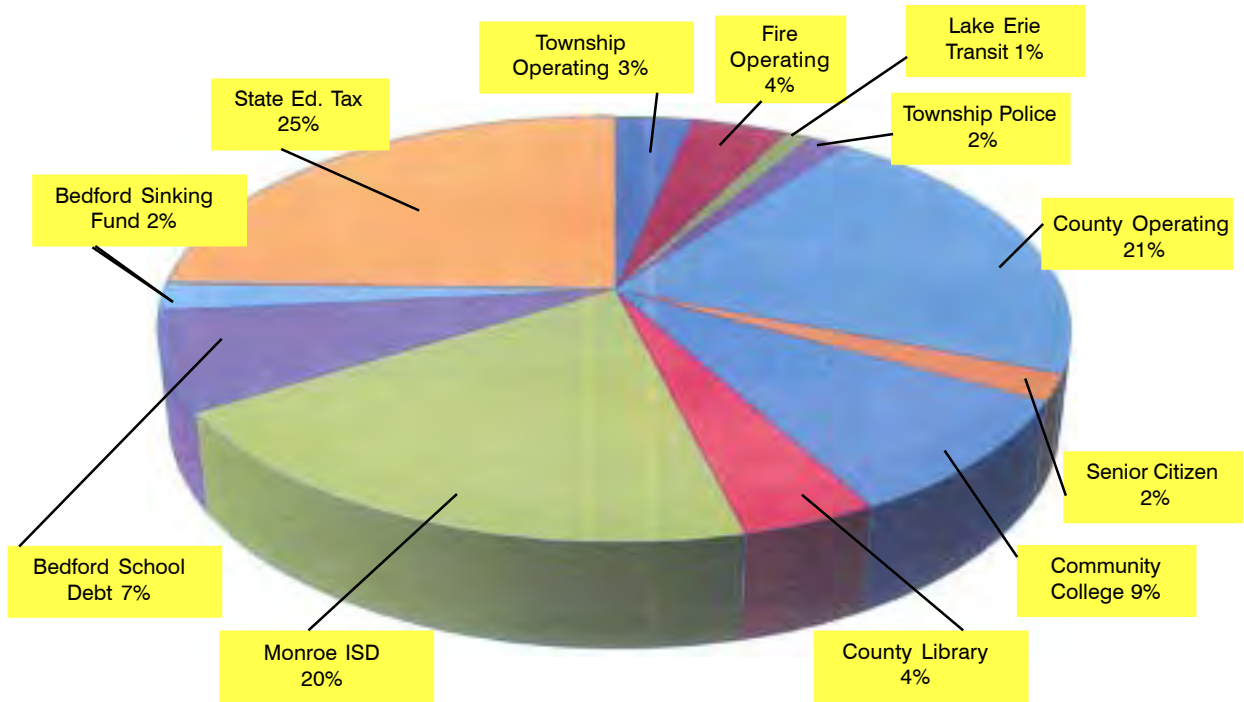
Videos on Bedford Website • www.bedfordmi.org

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.



SNOW (Continued from page 1)

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE TAX ALLOCATION



A. No, Bedford is allowed the Minimum because we are a General Law (*Unchartered*) Township, The second Largest in the State by the way. Cities can levy taxes, we cannot. Chartered Townships also have more flexibility with taxes. Anything above the 3% for the Township would have to be approved by the voters for specific uses.

Q: Our subdivision pays some of the highest property taxes in the Township, why aren't we taken care of first?

A: As you see above, property taxes do not go toward road dollars from the Road Commission. You pay road taxes at the Michigan gas pumps. The only dollars from your property taxes that go to roads are the funds that the Township Board designates for projects. Currently over 15% of our general funds goes to the road commission for road maintenance.

Q: If 15% of the 3% goes to the road maintenance, how much does Bedford Township give in total to the road commission for this support?

A: It is by project, the total for the 2013-14 year is projected to be approximately \$600,000⁰⁰. At present all of those dollars go for road maintenance but again the Board is looking at possible alternatives for winter maintenance. The Township is also attempting to leverage those dollars with Federal and State funding. ■

THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Come Fly With Us

Mark your calendars for Bedford Beautification Committee's exciting spring seminar.

When: Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

Where: The Bedford Library

Admission: Free

Mary Seth, founder of Wings Paws & Prayers Wildlife Rehabilitation and a Michigan licensed wildlife rehabilitator, presents a dynamic program featuring the orphaned birds of prey she rescues, rehabilitates and, whenever possible, releases into the wild. Both adults and children will be

charmed and awed by the magnificent raptors Mary brings and the real-life stories she tells.

For a sneak preview, and pre-registration for the seminar, stop by the Bedford Beautification Committee's booth at the Bedford Business Bureau's Trade Fair, Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 at the Bedford High School. ■

