

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smart growth should be township's goal

I have lived in Bedford Township over seven years.

My wife and I moved from a rental property in Erie to purchase a house in Temperance. Both of us, prior to us meeting, lived in major suburbs of Cleveland and Detroit.

One of the things that drew us to Temperance other than the beautiful house was the blend of suburb/rural feel. Like many others, I was opposed to the idea of Wal-Mart moving into Bedford Township. I was opposed to the idea of Wal-Mart based on how they do business and what they do to other businesses, not because they were a big box store.

There is all kinds of land in the southern part of the township sitting empty in commercial corridors because of the perceived view that Bedford Township is against all development. I believe we can have

our cake and eat it, too. The township is large enough to have a suburban feel and a rural feel. I would like to be able to go on Lewis Ave. and eat at a chain eatery or go to a store to buy clothes instead of going to Toledo to do those things.

When the township put in water and sewer it was preparing for growth and for business. If the people of Bedford Township had no interest in that, they could have kept things as they were and stayed like Erie, Ida and many other of the small towns around us.

Managing growth is good and smart; rejecting it is not. We are a suburb of Toledo just as much as Maumee, Swanton and Oregon. We need to embrace business and encourage business to be here in Bedford Township.

Mike Beck
Temperance