

ATTENTION CITIZENS OF BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

On September 10, 2008, the Bedford Township Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the majority of the Whitman Ford property at Lewis and Sterns from residential R-2A to commercial C-2 and C-3. Mr. Whitman is attempting to sell his property to Wal-Mart for 4.5 million, and this rezoning opens the door to accomplish this. He currently has enough acreage to sell to Wal-Mart, but Wal-Mart requires additional acreage for parking, thus the necessity of rezoning.

Our homes are the largest single investment most of us will every make. Property values will surely be ruined. The tax base revenue from Wal-Mart will be \$1.99 per resident per year and we have approximately 31,000 residents. If you compare that revenue against the loss of millions of dollars in decreased property values, you see that this is not in the best interest of Bedford Township, Monroe County, of the state of Michigan. In addition, many local businesses would be forced out of business. A Wal-Mart generates traffic and congestions that would require additional fire and police protection. Over 76,000 vehicles every week would place a huge toll on our roads which would be heavily damaged and paid for once again by Bedford tax payers. Semi delivery drives would give a daily 4:00 AM wake up call to residents within 3 square miles and there would be round the clock garbage pick up and snow removal. Our sewer systems would become overloaded trying to collect over 2 square miles of water after a rainfall. Parking lot lighting would illuminate the entire area, and there would be a documented increase in crime. Please go to www.bedfordwatch.com for more details. In addition, traffic coming from the west on Sterns trying to avoid the congestion at Sterns and Lewis would use Sarah Street to Bedford Drive to Lewis, as Sarah is the only through north/south street between Jackman and Lewis. Conversely, traffic coming from the south (Toledo), would use Bedford Drive to Sarah to Sterns. This is a residential street, not the thoroughfare it will become. Every house on this block was assessed \$10,000 for this road and it will be overused and overburdened.

This rezoning request next goes before the Monroe County Planning Commission tentatively scheduled for Oct. 8 or Nov. 10. Check the web site for details and an agenda when it is available. It then goes before the Bedford Township Board, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 28 or Nov. 11 for final approval. I'm asking you to write the Monroe Planning Commission, 125 E. 2nd Street, Monroe, Mi 48161, Attention: Mary Webb, Chairman requesting that they deny this rezoning based on the above reasons and any other reason you deem appropriate. ALSO, write the Bedford Township Board, 8100 Jackman, Temperance, Mi 48182 asking them to deny the rezoning. You can also email them to request denial of rezoning. Their email addresses are on their web page, www.bedfordmi.org : Walt Wilburn, Chairman, Bob Schockman, Clerk, Sherri Meyer, Treasurer, Larry O'Dell, Trustee, Rick Steiner, Trustee, Dennis Steinman, Trustee, and Paul Francis, Trustee (who is related to Whitman Ford). Also, plan to show up in person at the Bedford Township Board meeting on Oct. 28 or Nov. when the final decision will be made.

This is crucial to the quality of life of the residents of Bedford Township. Please make your voice heard through a letter, email or phone call (734-847-6791) requesting denial of the rezoning.

If you wish, you can copy jshmudy@bex.net, chairman of Bedfordwatch.com so she can tally how much support we have.