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Still working for you



- ▶ HOME
- ▶ PREVIOUS HISTORY
- ▶ WHITMAN LAWSUIT
- ▶ SURVEY
- ▶ COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS

UPDATED: January 10, 2009. Stay tuned....

Volunteers: We have until January 14, 2009 to get more signatures. Contact Dennis or Cheri Rabb at 734-847-0368 or Kevin Tracy at 734-847-8702 for the referendum petition forms and instructions on how to fill out the forms.

CLICK HERE to volunteer to be a circulator of the referendum petitions. You must be a registered voter in Bedford Township to sign the petition.

To all the residents who have signed the petitions and donated to bedfordwatch.com and to all of the volunteers who have helped us *so much* in the past 3 weeks we can just say one thing:

THANK YOU!

You can also contact any of us if you would just like to *sign* the petition or if you need more petitions, we will be happy to stop by your home:

- Kevin
- Judy
- Dennis
- Doug
- Jim

Please continue to help us protect your community and donate. Make all checks payable to: bedfordwatch.com CLICK HERE TO DONATE.

What do the petitions look like? To view a *sample*, CLICK HERE.

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
Whitman land issue might appear on ballot as a

LINKS:



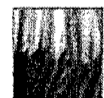
- Become a free member.
- Donations.
- Latest article from The Toledo Blade.
- Latest comprehensive article from The Toledo Blade.
- Latest article from The Monroe News.
- PBS Frontline story on Wal Mart.
- www.walmartwatch.com
- Bedford Township calendar.
- Click here to find out the agenda for the next Bedford Township board meeting.
- Bedford Township zoning map.
- Bedford Township web site.

If you would like to contact Bedford Township Hall, their phone number is: 734-847-6791

[read more...](#)

CONTACT US

Please leave us a name and phone number. No anonymous e-mails will be responded to.



Become a member

referendum. To read the latest from The Toledo Blade, [CLICK HERE](#).

Kevin

Judy

For the news story from WTOL 11: [CLICK HERE](#).

Dennis

For the news story from FOX 36: [CLICK HERE](#).

Doug

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

Read the open letter to Jon Whitman in response to his paid advertisement in Bedford Now on November 29, 2008: [CLICK HERE](#).

WHAT HAS BEDFORD WATCH DONE?

The members of Bedford Watch have spent 7 years of their lives along with other members of this community researching, studying, reading books, contacting 60 Minutes, contacting PBS for their movie, watching the latest movies, going to meetings, going to Township Board meetings, going to Planning Commission meetings, contacting local and regional Police and Fire Departments, going out of town to visit 3 Wal Marts, attending the court trial of Bedford Township vs. Jon Whitman, talking to lawyers, hiring lawyers, visiting peoples homes, collecting donations and talking to literally every professional in the industry gathering factual information to provide to the residents of this township; so they can make a decision on what is right for their community.

Bedford Township residents have gone thru 8 requested zoning changes from Jon Whitman in the past 7 years.

After reading hundreds of your e-mails (thank you), we have come to a decision.

It is up to you.

"Of the people, for the people, by the people," Abraham Lincoln.

"Our system of government is based upon a representative democracy, and one would hope that any legislative body would consider the wishes of their constituents," a quote from Judge Costello from the [Whitman lawsuit](#) that Bedford Township won.

The people of Bedford Township should decide with a referendum.

On December 15, 2008, a Bedford Watch member filed a [Notice of Intent to File Petition](#) for a referendum. For the latest article from the Monroe Evening News, [CLICK HERE](#).

A referendum is a direct vote in which an entire community is asked to vote in a special election and either reject or accept the recent zoning changes that

the Bedford Township Board approved on December 2, 2008.

WHY SHOULD WE DO THIS?

The residents of this community as a whole should decide. No longer will one person or one group decide what is right for everyone.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

You must be a registered voter in Bedford Township to sign the petition. Sign the referendum petitions that will be circulating around town or in the Bedford local stores.

We will also be happy to drop off the petition forms and instructions to your home or just stop by your home if you would just like to sign the referendum petition.

Contact Dennis or Cheri Rabb at 734-847-0368 or Kevin Tracy at 734-847-8702 for the referendum petition forms and instructions on how to fill out the forms.

After the referendum petitions are filled out, a special election will take place for the Bedford Township residents in a few months. At that election, you personally may deny or approve the recent rezoning at Lewis and Sterns.

You can also volunteer to be a circulator of the referendum petitions.

You can also contact any of us thru our e-mail addresses:

Kevin

Judy

Dennis

Doug

Jim

We will also create a requested survey page in the future. We apologize for the delay in creating this page; we have been collecting signatures for the past few weeks.

On December 2, 2008, the majority of the Bedford Township Board members approved 5 of the 6 Whitman Ford parcels up for rezoning.

For an ariel map of the Whitman property and the parcels labeled 1-6, [CLICK HERE.](#)

The R2-A 8.28 acre parcel (parcel 6 on the ariel map) that is directly behind the Ford dealership was not approved for rezoning.

THE WAY THE BOARD VOTED ON 12-02-08:

Paul Francis, Trustee. Paul is related to Jon Whitman and previously in 2006 he did not vote on the rezoning.

He said; "an appearance of a conflict of interest seems to be present." To read the exact quote from the Toledo Blade article, [CLICK HERE](#).

At the township board meeting on December 2, 2008, he was asked to not vote just like did in 2006. He refused. Paul is the only board member who voted for all of the parcels to be rezoned (parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6).

The following board members voted for the rezoning of parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:

[Walt Wilburn](#), Supervisor

[Larry O'Dell](#), Trustee

[Gail Hauser-Hurley](#), *New trustee*.

The following board member voted against the rezoning of parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to stop a big box store:
[Sherri Meyer](#), Treasurer.

During the board meeting, Sherri Meyer said, "I believe people's homes are the largest single investment they will make. I am concerned no impact study has been done and what affect it will have on our small businesses."

The following board member voted against parcels 5 and 6:

[Bob Schockman](#), Clerk.

The following board member voted against parcels 1, 2, 3 and 6:

[James Goebel](#), *New trustee*.

For the latest story from The Toledo Blade: [CLICK HERE](#).

For our press release [CLICK HERE](#).

Please continue to help us protect your community and donate. Make all checks payable to: bedfordwatch.com
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#).

Members of the Bedford Watch organization and this web site were nominated for the 2008 Citizen of the Year award. "The group leaders of Bedford Watch organized the community to act during the last six years against building a Wal Mart in Bedford Township. They are model citizens and they deserved to be recognized." To read the article from Bedford Now, [CLICK HERE](#).

Petitions can still be dropped off at Foodtown or Do It Best Hardware. Simply print the petition, fill it out and mail it back to the address on the bottom of the petition. [CLICK HERE](#) for the petition.

New link: [Wake Up Wal Mart](#).

If these documents do not open, [CLICK HERE](#) for a free

Adobe reader.

NEW:

A quick search of reported cases reveals that Wal Mart parking lots are "a virtual magnet for crime." This is a quote from Judge L. Starcher. To view the article, [CLICK HERE](#).

To review the hundreds of recent crimes that have occurred at the closest Wal Mart from the Sylvania, Ohio Police Department, [CLICK HERE](#). Note: this is a 32 page file.

It doesn't matter to us what crimes take place inside or in the parking lot of a big box store, it still takes a police officer an average 2-6 hours to process *any* crime. That means less protection on the neighborhood streets from our police force. Less protection if someone tries to break into our homes or commit a serious crime in our neighborhoods.

To review the fire department calls from the Sylvania, Ohio Fire Department for Wal Mart, [CLICK HERE](#).

To watch the latest movie- "Wal Mart- The High Cost Of Low Prices," [CLICK HERE](#).

2008 COMPLETE ELECTION RESULTS.

See page 4 for Bedford Township results.

RECENT: WHITMAN REZONING HEARING:

To read the latest article from the Monroe News, [CLICK HERE](#).

The five planning commission board members *who voted for the C-2 and C-3 rezoning to allow a potential big box store are:*

1. Tom Covrett, Chairman- (Tom Covrett was defeated in the November 4, 2008 election and did not become a new township board member).
2. Rollie Abel, Vice Chair
3. Mike Bassinger, Secretary
4. Maryanne Bourque,
5. Debbie Schneider.

FACT:

The only member of the planning commission who did not vote for the C-2 and C-3 rezoning on September 10, 2008 was Dennis Steinman. "I just can't vote for this the way it has been presented," Mr. Steinman said. "I have no idea what kind of large store could come in on this property. If we set this up like this, we've got problems," Mr. Steinman said. "Some large store could come in here. I can't see bringing something large that would suck business away from our people."

OUR GOAL:

The goal of befordwatch.com is to protect the residents

of our community. Our members are residents of Bedford Township in Temperance, Michigan that care about the great community in which they live, work and raise their families.

This website is based upon facts not opinions. Bedfordwatch.com has spent hundreds of hours of time studying the effects of a big box store nestled among a major residential area. Area neighbors who have taken the time to research this information truly realize the negative effects far outweigh the benefits of a big box store so close to our subdivisions.

Even though the rezoning proposal has changed from the original lawsuit, the facts still remain the same. The majority of the land would be available for a big box store. The neighbors that border this property and the members of Bedfordwatch.com have never said that we want this corner to remain a cornfield.

We have repeatedly said that whatever goes on this corner, does not have the right to ruin the entire infrastructure of this township, predominately affecting our police, fire, roads, sewer systems and property values.

Bedfordwatch.com was formed in 2001 as a limited liability corporation after Jon Whitman from Whitman Ford tried to sell 57.8 acres of land that was zoned C-2, C-3 and residentially zoned R-2A to Wal-Mart for millions of dollars in profit, without a care or concern for the infrastructure of the township or his neighbors, some of which would of had a big box store within 60 feet of their property lines.

Consider for one moment what a big box store would do to our community. First and foremost, our property values would decrease and our residential neighborhood would be destroyed. Many local stores would be forced to close. A big box store would generate traffic and congestion that would require additional fire and police protection. Over 76,000 additional vehicles every week would put an even bigger toll on our roads. Our roads would be heavily damaged and paid for once again by the Bedford Township taxpayers. Semi delivery trucks on the service drives near our back yards would give us 4 am wake up calls. Round the clock garbage and snow removal. Our sewer systems would become over worked trying to collect over 2 square miles of water after a rainfall. Proposed lighting would turn our bedrooms into 24 hour reading galleries and there would be a documented increase in crime in our predominately residential neighborhood.



FACTUAL INFORMATION:

The tax base from a new *20 million dollar big box store* would only generate \$1.99 per resident per year. Would