

# Whitman rezoning set to be considered by panel Wednesday

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP** — The Bedford Township Planning Commission will hear a rezoning request Wednesday regarding the Whitman Ford Co. property on Lewis Ave. and Sterns Rd. in Temperance.

In the request, property owner Jon Whitman has asked that a portion of the land to be changed to C-3 commercial, which is the highest-intensity commercial zoning allowed in the township.

About 19 acres of Mr. Whitman's 42 acres are looking to change from C-2 commercial to the higher-density version.

If approved, all but 11 acres of the land would become C-3 commercial, including the dealership, which Mr. Whitman announced will close at the end of the month.

The land that abuts Indian Acres subdivision would be

zoned multi-family residential and elderly residential. Land located on the southwest corner is zoned for professional office space.

After a four-day trial in January, Monroe County Circuit Judge Joseph A. Costello Jr. ruled in favor of Mr. Whitman, who filed suit against Bedford Township.

In the ruling, Judge Costello found the township was "arbitrary and capricious" in its zoning of the property. The ruling also nullified a citizen referendum against commercial zoning for parts of the site.

The property has been the subject of debate for decades since some fear it will become the site of a big box store.

The public hearing will take place at 7 p.m. in the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Rd.