

Bedford Watch seeks to deny property rights

As a citizen of this township and the United States, I'm concerned over the attention given to the Bedford Watch within this publication. It seems to me that this groups' sole purpose is to inhibit the growth of business and the capitalistic market of Bedford Township, merely because they fear the many evils that a "big box" store will bring to our community. A quote from the Bedford Watch's open letter in response to a letter by Jon Whitman reads:

"You own just 5 parcels in Bedford Township; we own the other 14,000 parcels in this township. You no longer live in this township, we do. We have to protect what is ours."

This statement is against everything this country was founded upon and assumes a society based upon mob rule, not a republic designed to protect the rights of all,

► Additional letters about the Whitman letter and responses appear on **Pages 11-12.**

whether in the majority of the minority. This group seems to be founded upon purely selfish motivation, with many unsupportable facts being laid out as reasons to block a business from opening at Lewis and Sterns; while in reality, they wish to deny the owner of property his rights as an American citizen to develop it as he wishes, perhaps because the Bedford Watch feels that it will inconvenience themselves. Even though such a store may bring undesired influences to our community, is it really our legal or ethical right to limit the free enterprise of another? I believe it is not.

Stephen Olson, Bedford Township