



BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP • TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN • VOLUME XII • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2011

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We're on the Web
WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG

OR VISIT US AT THE:

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL
8100 JACKMAN ROAD • P. O. Box H
TEMPERANCE, MICHIGAN 48182
TELEPHONE: (734) 847-6791
FAX: (734) 847-7809

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Walt Wilburn | Supervisor |
| Robert Schockman | Clerk |
| Sherri S. Meyer | Treasurer |
| Paul Francis | Trustee |
| Larry O'Dell | Trustee |
| Gail Hauser-Hurley | Trustee |
| James Goebel | Trustee |
| Dennis Kolar | Building Inspector |
| Chris Renius | Assessor |
| W. Thomas Graham | Attorney |
| Dennis Jenkins | Community Development Director |

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

| |
|-------------------------------|
| New Year's Day |
| Martin Luther King's Birthday |
| President's Day |
| Good Friday (afternoon) |
| Memorial Day |
| Independence Day |
| Labor Day |
| Veteran's Day |
| Thanksgiving Day |
| Friday following Thanksgiving |
| Christmas Eve |
| Christmas Day |
| New Year's Eve |



From The Supervisor's Desk

By: **Walt Wilburn**
Bedford Township
Supervisor

I Pay Taxes!!

This is a phrase that everyone working for Bedford Township Government hears daily. The phrase is something we do not take lightly, because everyone working for Bedford Township Government also pays taxes. The difference being, that daily we explain what exactly your tax money goes for and what exactly it does **not** cover. And daily the calls keep coming in about the expectations that citizens have as to what **should** be covered by their property taxes.

Granted Bedford Township is unique just as every other Township is unique in how our taxes are divided for various good uses. I know we all wish that what we pay out would eventually get smaller and we would have something left over at the end of the week, and what we do pay would take care of (*Let's see if your list is like mine*): Roads, Garbage Pickup, Pot Holes, Flood Water Drainage, More Deputies to give the other speeders tickets (*not me*), etc., etc..

So here goes the list straight from the Treasurer's Office as to what your taxes **really** do pay for.

Taxes on your owner occupied home:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| State Education Tax | 25% |
| Monroe ISD | 19% |
| County Operating | 19% |
| Monroe County Community College | 9% |
| Bedford Schools | 7% |
| Fire Department | 4% |
| County Library | 4% |
| Township Tax | 3% |
| Bedford Library | 3% |
| Bedford Sinking Fund | 2% |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| County Senior Citizen | 2% |
| Voted Police | 2% |
| Lake Erie Transit Renewal | 1% |
| Lake Erie Transit New less than | 1% |

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE is a percentage for the roads, or for pot holes, or for garbage pickup or for drainage problems. Even extra police is right next to the bottom of the list.

So where do the funds for the Monroe County Road Commission come from? Funding for road maintenance comes primarily from State collected vehicle registration fees and fuel taxes. Road Commissions (MCRC) have no taxing authority and no way to independently raise money to maintain Monroe County roads.

THE FUEL TAX HASN'T CHANGED SINCE 1997. So even though the price of a gallon of gas just keeps increasing, the amount of fuel tax that goes to the Road Commissions does not increase. They get no additional funds no matter how high the price of that gallon of gas goes, unless the state votes to change the amount of tax collected.

This past month we were hit with two pretty heavy snow storms, back to back which really crippled our sub-divisions. As you might imagine, all of us were frustrated with the condition of our roads. Given that the Monroe County Road Commission has only so many plows (*mostly antiquated equipment*), only so many people, only so much money, only so much time to cover the entire county, we still expect and deserve to have the roads cleared in a reasonable amount of time.

Maybe now is the time to think more seriously about alternate ways of handling our (See **SUPERVISOR** - Page 2)

Township Directory

Many people calling the township are finding that they reach a "menu" instead of the telephone receptionist. This is sometimes confusing, so in an effort to help you reach the correct person or department a list of names, titles, extension numbers and the department they work in is listed below. To reach Bedford Township offices and staff please call:

(734) 847-6791

and then the extension shown below.

SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Walt Wilburn, Supervisor..... | 121 |
| Meg Smith, Deputy Supervisor..... | 122 |

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Bob Schockman, Clerk..... | 123 |
| Trudy Hershberger, Deputy Clerk..... | 128 |
| Garnet Francis, Election Clerk..... | 134 |
| Kim Pollins, Part-Time | 154 |

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--|-----|
| Sherri Meyer, Treasurer..... | 124 |
| Sandy Renius, Deputy Treasurer..... | 127 |
| Krista Jandasek, Administrative Assistant..... | 152 |
| Amy Hogberg, Utility Clerk..... | 132 |
| Pam Andrews, Part-Time..... | 139 |

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| David Manning, Finance Director..... | 125 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---|-----|
| Dennis Jenkins, Planning/Zoning Coordinator..... | 135 |
| Karen Kincaid, Administrative Assistant..... | 137 |
| Duane Tucker, Zoning/Land Division Administrator..... | 131 |

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Dennis Kolar, Building Official..... | 136 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Chris Renius, Assessor..... | 126 |
| Alan Matlow, Assessing..... | 129 |
| Holly Merritt, Assessing..... | 149 |

ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Steve Heer., Ordinance Officer..... | 150 |
| James Brunt, Ordinance Officer..... | 151 |
| Shayla Pitzen, Ordinance Officer..... | 141 |

(SUPERVISOR - Continued From Page 1)

road maintenance. The Township Road Committee held five Town Hall meetings last year and will be holding more this spring and summer.

You might ask yourself, "**Would approximately \$50 more in taxes each year allow for Bedford to have a truck and 2 workers that would stay in Bedford to plow and fix pot holes, be a good value for the money?**" It's certainly something to consider.....Watch for the postings in the news papers and plan to attend the Town Hall meetings.

**This year is the 175th Birthday of Bedford Township...
Watch for Celebration News later this year.
Have a great Spring... Walt W.**

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

By: **Bob Schockman**
Bedford Township Clerk

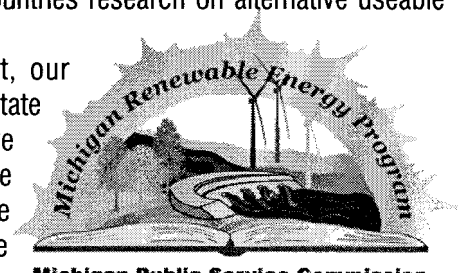
A few years ago I attended a conference on alternative energy resources. More research followed and it was clear at the time that this was our future here in Michigan, that our State could be a leader in this countries research on alternative useable energy.

The Governor, the President, our Congressman, and most of our State Representatives are all supportive of alternate forms of energy. Here in Bedford we are fortunate to have leaders in alternative energy home building. Further, our location is one that affords us forms of energy research few areas can hope to follow. The University of Toledo is a leader in Hydrogen research and has received federal grants for its' efforts in this field. In fact all of our Michigan universities are taking an active leadership role in alternative energy research.

Solar power is an endeavor that has been produced in this area for many years and a company in Farmington, Michigan has been exporting its solar panels to Europe for many years. The costs of small solar and wind conversion systems are becoming more affordable and builder quotes are available in most communities.

Townships are, according to the Michigan Township's Association, helping answer questions from residents about small wind energy systems or solar panel installation. We have seen an 85% jump in metering customers just in the last six months of 2009. What this means is, if a customer produces electric energy in excess of their needs they receive a credit for power returned to the system.

If you wish to review the state's report on alternative energy and net metering, the website is: www.michigan.gov/netmetering.





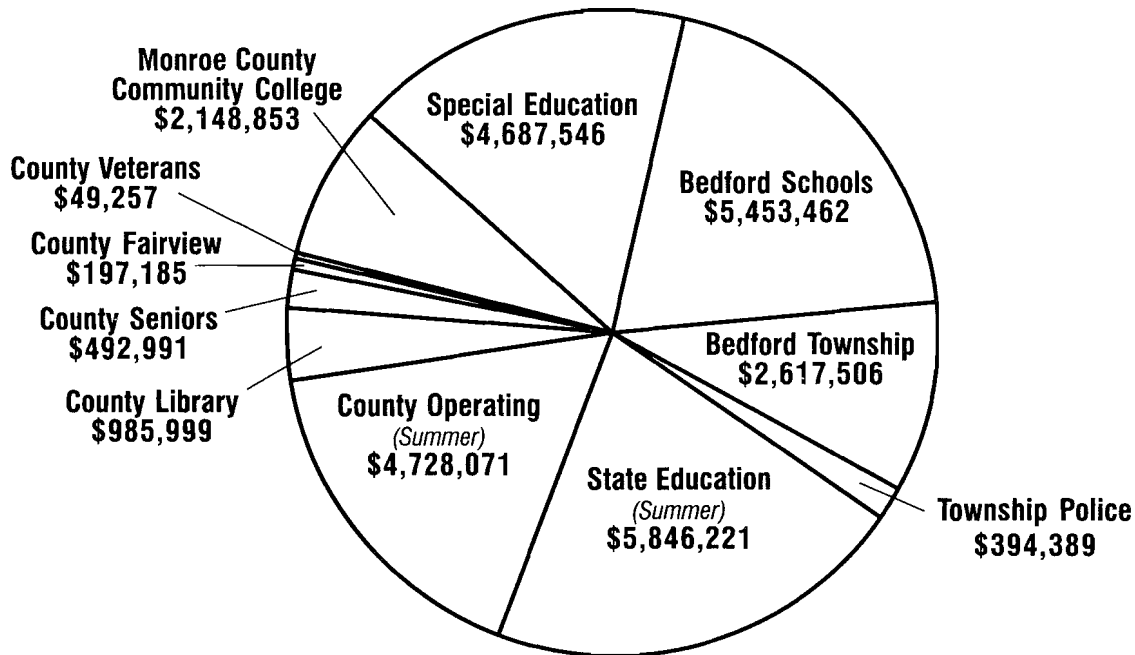
Dollar\$ & \$ense

By: Sherri S. Meyer
Bedford Township
Treasurer

Where Do My Tax Dollars Go?

*Residents always want to know where their tax dollars go.
Here is the current chart showing the 2010 tax distribution:*

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Summer Tax Distribution | \$10,574,292 |
| Winter Tax Distribution | \$17,027,188 |
| Total Tax Distribution | \$27,601,480 |



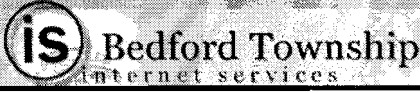
PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGER TIPS!

We want to help you get the information you need when you are preparing your income tax for the 2010 tax year. To obtain the amount you paid for your property taxes you can do one of the two following things.

1. If you have an escrow account you can look on your statement from your mortgage company and it will list the amount paid in 2010 for property taxes.
2. Go to our web page at www.bedfordmi.org. Click on Property/Tax Info in the middle of the home page next to the little map of Michigan. When the service page appears click on Tax Information Search under Current Tax on the left side of the page. The screen you see below will come up and allow you to search by property

number, address or name. You only need to fill in one of the fields. Click search and the next page will list several parcels. Click on the one that you want and the Detailed Tax Information page will come up. Scroll down for the Year/Season you need and click on the + sign in front of the year. You will see the amount due, the amount paid, the date it was paid, a breakdown of what was paid, assessed and taxable values, etc. This information can be printed for your records. If you have an questions or need help with the web page please call the **Treasurer's Department** at **734.847.6791** ext. **142**.

We hope that this information is helpful in obtaining your tax information.



Logged in as: Anonymous User Home | Change Unit | Create an Account | Add to Favorites | Login | Help

Main > Current Tax > Tax Information Search

Tax Information Search

Search and view various tax information.

Search by Owner Name

Owner Name: **

Last name only is the preferred search method. For a more refined search try Last Name, First Name.

Search by Address

Street Name: **

Street Number: to

Search by Parcel Number

Parcel Number: **

Format: 02 ### ### ##

Click this button to collapse the above menu to the top of the screen.

Bedford Township Website:
www.bedfordmi.org

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