

# CITY OF BEDFORD



## Good Neighbor Guide *for residents*

Information on Refuse & Recycling, Curfew, Pets,  
Noise, Parking, Income Tax and More



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## Welcome to Bedford!

We are pleased to provide you with this Good Neighbor Guide to answer many questions you may have. In this guide, you will find information and good neighbor reminders to make Bedford a community we are proud to live and raise our families.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call Bedford City Hall at 440-232-1600 or visit our website [www.bedfordoh.gov](http://www.bedfordoh.gov).

## Important Phone Numbers

Police Emergency .....	911
Police Non-Emergency.....	440-232-1234
Animal Control (Police Non-Emergency) .....	440-232-1234
Bedford Cemetery.....	440-232-4462
Building Department .....	440-735-6530
City Council Office.....	440-735-6510
City Manager Office.....	440-735-6514
Economic Development.....	440-735-6520
Finance Department.....	440-735-6500
Fire Department .....	440-232-1214
Parks & Recreation Department .....	440-735-6570
Service Department.....	440-735-6583
Tax Department.....	440-735-6505
Water Department .....	440-735-6525
Waste Water Department.....	440-668-1610

## Building Department

### **Property Maintenance:**

If you have a concern with a neighbor regarding a property maintenance issue, it would be considerate to speak with your neighbor first, if you feel comfortable. A good neighbor would rather you bring the issue to their attention instead of reporting them to City Hall. To report a property maintenance issue, contact the Building Department at 440-735-6530 or submit “Report an Issue” form located on the City website home page.

- Exterior property areas must be free of garbage, debris, stored materials and unlicensed and inoperable vehicles.
- Do not mow your lawn, operate loud machinery or start construction projects before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.
- Lawns must be cut and maintained on a schedule largely determined by the growing season. Lawns should be cut by the time the grass grows to a length of 4 inches.
- Do not blow grass clippings and leaves into the street. The debris clogs catch basins and sewers. Grass clippings and leaves create a hazard for motorcycles.
- Shrubbery must be trimmed neatly as needed. Shrubbery that borders a driveway or public sidewalk must be trimmed to a height not exceeding 36 inches so that motorist can see over the top of the bushes. Bushes and trees that block the line of sight for motorists may not be permitted in certain locations.

## Fire Department

### **Open Burning:**

The Bedford Fire Department has developed the following guidelines regarding recreational fires and/or the use of fire pits and similar products:

- The location of any recreational fire shall not be less than 50 feet from a structure; including house, garage, shed, etc.
- The material used for burning shall be considered a “clean fuel”, such as seasoned dry firewood.
- All fires must constantly be attended until the fire is completely extinguished. At least one on-site fire extinguishing method (i.e. garden hose, dirt, sand, etc.) shall be available for immediate use.
- Fires over 3 feet in diameter are considered bonfires and must have prior approval from the Fire Department.
- Even if all the above criteria are met, fires that are offensive or objectionable to your neighbors due to smoke or odor emissions must be extinguished immediately.

## Parks & Recreation Department

The City of Bedford has over 27 acres of park lands in over 10 locations around the city including Ellenwood Center, the outdoor municipal pool and skate park and is committed to providing our residents with safe and meaningful recreational opportunities for kids and adults of all ages.

For current program and special event information, visit the City website or follow us on Facebook @BedfordRecreation or on Twitter @BedfordRec.

**Ellenwood Center:** Ellenwood Center is the home of the Parks and Recreation Department and is a great place for Bedford residents to host a banquet or family event for groups of all sizes at an affordable price.

**Municipal Pool:** Open June through August, the pool offers swim lessons, water aerobics, lifeguard training and a competitive swim team. The facility features six 25-yard competition lanes, water slide, zero-depth area and spray ground.

**Seniors:** Senior Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at Ellenwood Center. Senior bus trips and other special outings are offered 6-8 times per year.

**Community Transportation Service:** A door-to-door transportation service is offered for Bedford senior citizens age 60 and older and disabled persons over the age of 18 and can be used for medical appointments and errands such as banking and grocery shopping.

## Police Department

### **Animal Control:**

Animal Control enforces laws regarding pets and wildlife. Contact the animal warden at the non-emergency police number 440-232-1234.

The following are Bedford animal ordinances:

- You cannot allow your dog to bark or howl to the point that it disturbs your neighbors.
- You must keep your dog on a leash, a tether or behind a fence.
- If your dog is older than 3 months, you must register it with the County and have it wearing the tag.
- If you take your dog for walks, you must clean up after the dog (even in the park).
- Feeding of deer and undomesticated animals is prohibited. Do not feed the deer, stray cats, raccoons, squirrels or any other animals.

If you do experience a nuisance animal problem, we will loan you a trap on a first come basis. We will tell you what bait to use and how and where to set the trap. If you do catch something, we will pick it up for removal. Contact the animal warden at the non-emergency police number 440-232-1234.



## **Curfew:**

Parents and guardians have the responsibility for enforcing curfew regulations.

- Children age 15 and under may not be out on public streets, sidewalks, public parks or public grounds from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Children age 16 and 17 cannot be out between 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. during weekdays and between 12:00 a.m. midnight to 6:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

## **Littering:**

Please do not litter. If you see litter on your tree lawn, sidewalk or in your neighborhood, be a good neighbor and pick it up. Be sure to remind children not to litter.

## **Noise Ordinance:**

Bedford ordinance states that residents are not permitted to make unreasonably loud noise to the extent that it disturbs the neighbors. Loud noise from radios, stereos, parties, live music, etc. is measured by the police. Please be considerate to your neighbors.

If you plan on a party and foresee potential problems such as noise or parking concerns, it would be courteous to speak with your neighbors. Ask them to call you instead of calling the police if noise becomes a problem. If they do call you, be courteous and lower the volume.

## **Good Neighbor Noise Reminders:**

- Do not cut your grass or operate loud machinery before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.
- Be considerate when you play your stereo or television. Make sure only you can hear it, not the whole neighborhood.
- Ask your friends to ring your doorbell when they visit and not honk their horn.
- Vehicles and motorcycles shall be equipped with a muffler in good working order to prevent excessive or unusual noise. Be considerate and promptly make exhaust system repairs.

## **Parking:**

- Parking is not allowed on Bedford streets between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. If you must park in the street, call the Police Department non-emergency number at 440-232-1234.
- Parking on front, side and rear lawns is not allowed. Parking is only permitted on a driveway. Any other parking area must be hard surfaced and approved by the Building Department.
- All vehicles parked in a driveway must be operable and display valid license plates. Inoperable and unlicensed vehicles may be stored inside of a garage with the garage door kept closed.

## **Safety Reminders:**

911 should be called for any emergency type situations. All non-emergency police related business should be directed to 440-232-1234.

- Do not allow your children to play in the street; children should be encouraged to play in their own yards.
- Where a sidewalk is provided, do not walk in the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk close to the curb on the left side of the road.
- When walking or jogging at night, wear reflective clothing, walking or running against traffic.
- Only cross the street at a crosswalk.
- When riding a bicycle, follow traffic safety rules. Bike with traffic. Do not ride your bicycle in the middle of the street.

## **Trespassing:**

You do not have the right to cut across someone's yard, sit on a neighbor's porch or steps without permission, or congregate on someone's lawn. Parents please remind your children and young adults to stay off other people's property and to respect elderly residents on the street.

## Service Department

### **Brush and Branch Collection:**

Branch collection will be picked up one week during the months of April through October. Check website for schedule.

### **Leaf Collection:**

The Service Department begins leaf collection around the beginning of October every year and continues until all leaves are collected.

### **Refuse Collection and Recycling:**

- Garbage can be placed out the evening prior to collection after 6:00 p.m., or the morning of collection before 7:00 a.m. All cans must be removed within 12 hours after collection.
- When disposing of box springs and mattresses, all items need to be wrapped in plastic and taped closed.
- **Recycle Items:** Combine only these 5 core items in your recycle container. Keep them loose - do not bag.

**Cans:** Empty and rinse.

**Cartons:** Empty and rinse. Replace the cap - it's too small to be recycled by itself.

**Glass Bottles & Jars:** Empty and rinse.

**Paper & Boxes:** Flatten cardboard items and cereal boxes to save space.

**Plastic Bottles & Jugs:** Empty and rinse. Replace the cap.

## **Refuse Collection Holiday Schedule:**

Refuse and recycle items will not be picked up on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

If any of these holidays occur on a weekday prior to or on your collection day, service will be delayed one day.

If you have any questions regarding these services, contact the Service Department at 440-735-6583.

## **Tax Department**

The City of Bedford's income tax rate is 3%. The City allows a credit of up to 2.25% on other City withholding taxes paid. Payment of all individual and business taxes are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Estimated payments are billed on a quarterly basis.

Payments and due dates: Quarterly payments for individuals are due in the calendar year in which they are earned, based on estimated annual income.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – April

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – June

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – December

We are not part of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). For further information, contact the Bedford Tax Department at 440-735-6505.

## **Bedford City Council**

### **Mayor Stan Koci**

440-735-6518

skoci@bedfordoh.gov

### **Ward 1 - Sandy Spinks**

440-735-6517

xasize@ameritech.net

### **Ward 2 - Walter Genutis**

440-735-6516

wgenutisward2@gmail.com

### **Ward 3 - Victor Fluharty**

440-735-6519

councilmanfluharty@gmail.com

### **Ward 4 - Paula Mizsak**

440-735-6526

paulamiz46@gmail.com

### **Ward 5 – Jeff Asbury**

440-735-6527

jasburyward5@bedfordoh.gov

### **Ward 6 - Donald Saunders**

440-735-6528

saundersward6@sbcglobal.net

Council meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. June through August there is a summer session schedule posted. All council meetings are open to the public and held in the Council Chambers at Bedford City Hall.

Be sure to visit the City of Bedford website and social media platforms for further and current information.



**City of Bedford**  
165 Center Road  
Bedford, Ohio 44146  
440-232-1600

[www.bedfordoh.gov](http://www.bedfordoh.gov)  
Facebook @BedfordOH  
Twitter @CityofBedford



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