

BEDFORD VILLAGE COMMON DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, ANNUAL TOWN REPORT, 2009

The Bedford Village Common is a 9.44-acre community park under development, located within the town's historic center, just east of the intersection of Route 101 and Bell Hill Road. In early 2009, there was a change in focus for the Committee from the development of a park master plan, engineering, and permitting to raising private funds and overseeing the construction of the Common. To reflect this focus, the Town Council appointed a new committee called the Bedford Village Common Development Committee (BV CDC).

In June, the Town Council voted to include a bandstand in Phase II of the plan and to set aside \$60,000 in Public Recreation Impact Fees for the park project (no tax impact). The Committee is charged with raising private funds to match the \$60,000 in impact fees and additional funds to complete the park.

2009 has been a very productive year. With donations of supplies and the efforts of 36 volunteers, the three-rail wooden fence along Rt. 101 was stained in mid-June. In fall, grassroots fundraising and community awareness events, such as bake sales, began under the direction of Fundraising Sub-Committee members Michelle Moore and Jim Scanlon. The Arbors of Bedford sponsored public events such as "Pumpkins in the Park", "Gingerbread House Tour", and the "Festival of Trees". The Committee participated in the Strawberry Festival, Olde Town Day, Farmer's Market non-profit groups' day, and other community events. A "buy-a-brick/paver program" was launched for the pathways and bandstand area.

The BV CDC developed a Web page on the town's Web site, logo, letterhead, donor forms, outreach letters, a 25-minute informational BCTV program, and 2 BCTV Public Service Announcements. In late November, the Committee sent out a town-wide fundraising letter, approved by the Town Council, to residents and businesses asking for tax-deductible private donations to help fund the construction of the park. Fundraising will continue for each phase of development.

Construction of Phase II of the park commenced with the installation of wetland crossing culverts, bridges, and stone dust pathways from the Common's parking lot to the future bandstand lawn area and to the emergency access off Bell Hill Road.

The BV CDC is a Town Council-appointed committee consisting of Beverly Thomas (Chair), Jeanene Procopis (Vice-Chr.), Deb Sklar, Jim Scanlon, and Michelle Moore. Town representatives are: Bill Dermody (Town Council); Mike Izbicki (Town Council Alternate); Cynthia May (Planning Department). Anne Cruess of TF Moran, Inc. donates her consulting services to the Committee. Past members of the 2009 Committee include: Jayne Spaulding, Mervyn Taub, and Susan Sandler. The BV CDC provides volunteer assistance to the Town Council with the goal of creating a community park for the benefit of the citizens of Bedford.

Prepared by: Beverly Thomas, BV CDC Chair
Jeanene Procopis, BV CDC Vice-Chr.