

CAN BEDFORD'S MAIN HOUSING STRATEGY BE TO "OVERHAUL HOMES IN DISREPAIR?"

One commenter on the Plan suggested that Bedford's principal housing strategy should be rehabilitation of existing older houses. The question then arises: who will pay for that? The private market won't do it: builders much more profit tearing down older, smaller houses and putting up much larger ones. Or they just build new homes on vacant or subdivision or frontage exemption lots. The public sector will not readily pay for rehabilitation: Bedford is not eligible for Community Development Block Grant/Small Cities funds, which is the usual source of funding for rehabilitation programs. Hypothetically, town Community Preservation Act funds might be employed for this purpose, but rehabilitation of multiple homes would represent costs of hundreds of thousands of dollars.