

# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

*Submitted by Mike Rosenberg, Caucus Nominee and incumbent candidate for Selectman*



*Mike Rosenberg*

*Mike invites any Bedford resident to contact him via*

[razzn@aol.com](mailto:razzn@aol.com) or 781-983-1763

## **CAUCUS STATEMENT**

As someone who grew up in New England, I have always been a big fan of municipal government – the grass-roots level where an individual citizen can influence changes to her quality of life. Selectmen are emblematic of that role, and as a reporter in Bedford almost 40 years ago they were larger than life. After all, besides military heroes, who else do we name streets after in this town? Selectmen – like Ellingson, Genetti, Goldman, Hume. (Oh yes, and town counsel....Dick Donovan Drive, Francis Kelly Road.)

Anyway, after six years on what used to be called a board, I'm not looking for permanent recognition on a street sign. But I am asking for your vote because I still am passionate about the relevance and rewards of local government. I want to share a few of the perspectives I have gained, which outline some of the priorities anticipated for a third term:

- Bedford is in danger of becoming a gated community without the gates. This is not policy driven; it's simply the market at work. Yet demographic diversity always has been central to what people regard as the Bedford way, and that's why I always will be an advocate for ensuring a supply of housing that is affordable.
- There is something to this regional communication that my predecessor Gordon Feltman tried to teach me. We can share expertise and experience and brainstorm, and this has especially become evident as the four contiguous towns discuss and consider the future of Hanscom Air Force Base and the development of Hansom Field. The experience I have gained over six years on the HATS Committee has been invaluable.
- Also hard to measure is the value of serving three terms on the school committee before I was elected selectman. It has provided me with a unique perspective and empathy -- not just as a lesson in intergovernmental relations but also by recognizing the importance of young people as they charge through the grades and emerge into

citizenship. How can we inspire them to appreciate and invest time and energy in government at the grass roots? It is gratifying for me to work alongside people like Stacey Swider and Caroline Fedele and School Committee member Mike McAllister, all BHS alumni whom I knew as kids.

- As a longtime newspaper editor and columnist before holding elective office, I learned about the myriad components of our community – the individual residents and their interests and skills, the clubs and organizations. There is a constant interaction between government and the individual citizen, the neighborhoods, the groups. I feel I am uniquely equipped to interact this way.

One reason town government works so well here is the excellence of its professional management. Our town manager and department heads, not to mention the office of the superintendent of schools, are not just capable administrators. They are superb leaders and planners, occasionally visionaries.

It has been a privilege for me to hold elective office for the past 14 years, and to have lived in this wonderful community for the past 40. Thanks so much for your past support; I would be so grateful if it could continue on March 8.