

Emily Mitchell, Citizen of the Year 2025

Born and raised in western Illinois, Emily Mitchell moved to the East Coast for college in 1993 and never really left. After a brief stint in New York, she and her husband, John, moved to Bedford in 2001. Their daughter and son attend the University of Pittsburgh and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. Emily holds a bachelor's degree in English from Harvard, a master's in secondary English education from Syracuse, and an MBA from Babson. Her professional background is in children's publishing, first as an editor and now as a literary agent.

Emily served on the board of Patrons of Music Students (POMS) for ten years and was its president for three years. She was also the primary parent coordinator for both the middle and high school musicals for nine years, organizing volunteers, providing support at rehearsals, and managing fundraising events and publicity.

She has been deeply involved with St. Paul's Episcopal Church since moving to Bedford. She initiated and has coordinated multiple youth trips with Appalachia Service Project, where teens perform home repair and construction for people living in rural poverty. She served for 20+ years as the high school youth leader and seven years as a vestry warden. She sings in the adult choir, handles publicity and other duties for the annual Advent Fair, coordinates the St. Paul's booth for Bedford Pride, and is the current co-chair of the Rector Search Committee.

In 2016 Emily was elected a Trustee of the Bedford Free Public Library and served as its chair in 2018–2019. She worked locally on the Yes on 3 ballot question campaign in 2018, in collaboration with Bedford Embraces Diversity and the Violence Prevention Coalition. She was elected to the Select Board in 2019, serving two terms, including a stint as chair in 2022–2023. Her liaison assignments included the library trustees, HFAC, the Cultural Council, Disability Commission, and Fire Station Building Committee.

Emily was also a founding board member of *The Bedford Citizen*, and a former board member of the Bedford Center for the Arts.