

Supervisor Chris Burdick's March Report

April 2, 2019



Reusable Bag Law Now in Effect

The Town's Reusable Bag Law took effect on April 1 with a 10 cent charge on either single use plastic or single use paper bags. It applies to Shoprite, DeCicco's, Key Foods, Pier I, Kohl's and CVS.

An out of town resident who may not be familiar with the law wanted to know what happens to the 10c fee. First, some background. Each of the grocery stores in Bedford has been an enthusiastic partner with the Town in embracing and advocating our efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate single use plastic and paper, both of which are deleterious to the environment.

Each of the grocery stores' participation has been significant, including training of staff, considerable staff time, the distribution of free reusable bags to their customers, banners and other postings, and other efforts to get the word out. To date the grocery stores have distributed an astonishing number of free reusable bags to their customers: over 9,000. We also received generous contributions from Houlihan Lawrence, Bedford Village Business Association, and State Farm enabling us to distribute some additional 2,000 free reusable bags. The total number of free reusable bags distributed now exceeds 10,000. Each of the stores will keep the fee to pay for the cost of the bags and defray the costs incurred with their participation. Bedford 2020 and the Reusable Bags Task Force is continuing to give away free bags and they are available at various locations throughout Town including Town Hall, libraries and tabling events being held.

We truly don't want anyone to pay a dime, but rather use the reusable bags. So please put them in your car so you have them handy on your next shopping trip.

Late breaking news: New York State's just adopted budget includes a provision to ban single use plastic bags and also to allow counties and large cities the option of imposing a 5c fee on single use paper bags. This law does not go into effect until March 1, 2020. Meanwhile, the Town's law is in place so Bedford is doing its part to reduce the needless waste.

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Sewer Project

Update on Present Project and Looking Ahead to Phase II

The Town is proceeding well on the first phase of providing sewers, which we refer to as Phase I. Phase I will provide sewers to the neighborhood business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah and to Katonah Elementary School, property of St. Mary's Church and to Bedford Park Apartments (these are known as the original upgrade sites). Our engineers, Woodard & Curran, are on schedule for completing the design and construction plans this summer.

In conjunction with its design work, Woodard & Curran, also has reviewed and updated the estimated project costs set forth in the Map, Plan and Report and found that such costs remain within the projected budget.

Please also refer to the "Sewer District Annual Report 2018" in the Town's 2018 [Annual Report](#) which provides background on the creation and scope of the sewer district, the Town's planned operation of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and other aspects of the project.

The launch of the Phase I hinges on the "registration" within New York City of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town and the City. The process entails acceptance of the document by the New York City Council and we do not anticipate any problem in its ultimate approval or registration. The IGA is the source of \$13 million in funding for the project, so it's essential that it be in place before we bid out the \$21 million construction project.

The registration process began in June of 2018. It's a long process. At one point we thought it might be completed in January 2019 and we'd be going out to be in February 2019, but it has taken longer and likely will not be completed until late spring/early summer.

Following registration of the IGA, we would go out to bid, however the summer is the peak season for construction work and so doesn't place us in an ideal competitive environment. We also do not want to disrupt the business districts with construction in November or December.

As such, the anticipated project schedule now is as follows:

- **Complete design, regulatory approval, and IGA - August 2019**
- **Receive bids for Construction Work - November 2019**
- **Start Construction - Spring 2020**
- **Complete Construction - Fall 2021**

So a few words about Phase II.

Why would we consider the next phase of the sewer project if we haven't started Phase I? When we went out to the community to explain Phase I, we pledged that it was just the first step in providing sewers for all of the areas of Bedford Hills and Katonah which need them. We know too well that the process for building a sewer system is long and arduous. It is years between the initial planning through to the system being operational for the property owners. As such, in the Fall of 2018 the Town Board decided we should get started on the next phase.

We commissioned Woodard & Curran to prepare a [Preliminary Engineering Report](#) which centers on Bedford Lake Apartments/Lakeside at Bedford off of Haines Road. This property is the last of the DEP upgrade sites – one which DEP has slated for a new wastewater treatment plant. We have initiated discussions with DEP that rather than DEP proceeding with building a new plant, the Town would replace it with the "alternative upgrade" comprised of connecting the property to the sewer system. This is precisely the approach embodied in Phase I with an alternative upgrade of the three original upgrade sites mentioned above. DEP was receptive to the concept and discussions are ongoing, which is the cornerstone of any Phase II as it is the primary source of funding.

While the alternative upgrade for Bedford Lake Apartments/Lakeside at Bedford would be a benefit for the property owners, DEP and the Town, we wish to do more under Phase II.

We need to identify areas which meet a number of criteria:

- Houses on smaller lots with cesspools or septic systems prone to failure.
- Commercial properties with septic systems prone to failure.
- Proximity to existing sewer lines and otherwise cost effective for connecting to the Phase I system.
- A successful referendum among the property owners; i.e., property owners which are willing to pay the costs of connecting to the sewer main and would support the sewer rents likely to be charged.

To help identify the area or areas, we are sending a straw poll to property owners of areas which meet the criteria mentioned above. This week, we are sending a straw poll to the denser areas of Katonah not included in Phase I.

If the survey results are positive, then we'll consider other areas in Bedford Hills and Katonah.

Comptroller's Report

Town Comptroller Abraham Zambrano issued the February 2019 Finance Department Report to the Town Board on March 15 as follows:

EXPENDITURES

General and Highway Funds.

Detailed expenditure reports for both the General and Highway funds will be included with the March report. At this point, the overall expenditure percentage for the General and Highway Funds are on target. Since in February, we were still processing activity for 2018, final numbers will not be finalized until the annual audit is completed in May. We are still projecting that reserves will be increasing approximately \$300k and \$50K in the General and Highway Funds respectively.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax.

Based on information obtained from the Westchester County Clerk's office, we have been able to project that the first installment of the Mortgage Recording tax due in April will be in the \$460,000 range. Projections for the rest of the year indicate we will end the year slightly below the budgeted amount. However, we are anticipating that the spring months will bring movement in the real estate market.

Sales Tax.

At the time of this report, the Westchester County Department of Finance had not released the January and February 2019 sales tax figures. However, based on historical data, at this point, we are optimistic that sales tax revenues will continue in an upward trend throughout 2019.

Parking.

Parking revenues recorded for the first two months of 2019 are 16% greater than for the same period in 2018. We attribute the increase to the continuous evaluation of lot usage that has allowed the staff to continue selling commuter parking permits to our residents on the wait list. At this point, we are projecting to exceed the amounts budgeted for 2019 by about \$100,000.

Fines and Forfeited Bail.

The collection of fines imposed by the Justice Court are recorded a month in arrears due to the timing of the processing by the NYS Office of Court Administration. Fines collected in January 2019 were \$66,625, an amount that exceeds the January 2018 collections by over \$8,000. Based on this trend, early projections demonstrate that we will exceed budget by over \$200,000 by the end of the year.

Safety Inspections.

Safety Inspections fees for the first two months of the year are greater than the amount collected in the same period in 2018.



Spring/Summer Brochure
Sign up now!
For the full brochure please [click here](#)

Town's Triple A Bond Rating Reaffirmed

I am pleased to report that late last week S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the [Town of Bedford's AAA bond rating](#), which is the highest rating available. Fewer than 3% of municipalities in the Nation have the benefit of this highest rating. The rating was issued in connection with the Town's upcoming bond issuance in connection with the 2018 to 2019 portion of the Town's ten year Capital Plan for years 2018 through 2027 which the Town Board adopted in December of 2017. Capital Plan which the Town Board adopted in December. The triple A rating is important to the credit markets and therefore has a direct impact on the interest rate which the Town pays on its bonds.

With the highest rating, our interest costs are tens of thousands of dollars less than those municipalities with lower ratings.

My thanks go to Comptroller Abraham Zambrano, our Departments and my colleagues on the Town Board in following fiscally prudent and conservative budgetary principles and management of the Town's finances.



Welcome to the Bedford Hills Earth Day Festival,
A yearly festival organized by Bedford 2020, Bedford Hills Live, Bedford Neighborhood Association, Healthy Yards and The Town of Bedford.

A free event with music, food and activities for the whole family

Music:

The Recliners, The Shovel Ready String Band

Food:

Meme's, Nolvi Deli

General Activities:

Participating in Pollinator Pathway, Plant/Seed Swap, 'Soil Your Undies', Bedford Hills Street Clean Up, 'Coffee with a Cop', Create a 'Pollinator' Garden

Kids' Activities:

Nature Hunt, Crafts, Building Bee Hotels, Live Animals, Making Flower Pots

Participants:

Ask The Gardener, Bedford2020, Bedford Audubon, Bedford Conservation Board, Bedford Garden Club, Bedford Hills Live, Bedford Neighborhood Association, Bio Nutrient Food Association, Darksky, H2H, Healthy Yards, Hopp Ground Garden Club, Hudson Valley Natural Bee Association, Rusticus Garden Club, The Nature of Things, The Town of Bedford, Westchester Native Plant Center, Westchester Land Trust and many more.

This year we are celebrating the pollinators.

Pollinators are bees and butterflies. At the festival we are giving out free plants and containers so you can support the bees and butterflies at home and enjoy lovely plants and flowers at the same time!

For more information about the festival visit: www.bedford2020.org/earthday/

Septic System Repair and Replacement Program Temporarily Suspended

The Septic System Repair and Replacement Program is temporarily suspended pending clarification and discussions with Westchester County, which controls the funding for the program.

We apologize for any inconvenience and are hopeful that we will have the program back in place in the near future.

Restoration of Route 117

We are pressing Con Edison to start as early as possible in the Spring to restore the chewed up surface of Route 117 following their natural gas line replacement project. While the project surely was needed, restoration of the road with a curb to curb re-surfacing is overdue.

We have been working both with the Village of Mount Kisco as well as NYS Department of Transportation since Route 117 is a state road – to get this work done just as soon as possible.

As to the restoration of Green Lane, which is a Town of Bedford road, the Village Manager of Mount Kisco confirmed that they have instructed the contractor to undertake the project as soon as the asphalt plant opens in March.

2019 Shredder Availability Expanded

As mentioned in this space, the Town Board included additional funding in the 2019 Town budget to enable the Public Works Department to increase shredder events from quarterly to monthly.

The next one is Saturday, April 6, from 11:00am until 2:00pm

Town Recycling Center • 343 Railroad Avenue, Bedford Hills 10507

Here's the completed 2019 schedule:

Saturdays 1/5, 2/2, 4/6, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7

Town Recycling Center • 343 Railroad Avenue, Bedford Hills 10507

11:00am to 2:00pm

Saturday 5/4

Crusher Road highway yard • 1 Crusher Road Bedford Village 10506

9:00am to 12:00 noon

Thursday 9/5

Town Recycling Center • 343 Railroad Avenue, Bedford Hills 10507

1:00pm to 2:00pm.

For a printable version: [Expanded 2019 Shredder Event Dates](#)

Con Edison's Westchester Natural Gas Moratorium

We are continuing to assess the impact of Con Edison's March 15 shut down for applications for new gas service effective March 15.

We also are trying to identify the possible impacts by identifying where Con Edison runs its lines – while we know where lines run, we may not know all of them. At my request, Con Edison's engineering department has compiled its data on the location of lines and furnished it to us so that we might try to correlate them with Building Permit applications the Town has received.

As I've mentioned in this space over the past few weeks, please contact me if you believe you may be impacted. We will do everything we can to help.

From prior report:

As you may have heard, on January 17, Con Edison filed a notice with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) that it is implementing a temporary moratorium in most of its Westchester County service area for new natural gas services.

Con Edison states on its website:

"We will accept applications for new gas service until March 15, 2019. Customers will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis unless it becomes necessary to stop accepting new requests before the end of the enrollment period.

Customers will be provided specific timelines based on their request type. New buildings will be allowed up to 24 months to complete their projects."

We are highly concerned about significant adverse impacts for both residents and businesses alike with the imposition of the moratorium. County Executive George Latimer called up Con Edison to address concerns with elected officials which led to a briefing yesterday afternoon at Con Edison's offices in Rye.

Con Edison explained that there had been a sudden and dramatic shift in natural gas supply and demand which prompted Con Edison's moratorium action.

Con Edison stated as follows:

- The duration of the moratorium is uncertain.
- Westchester County is served by a number of natural gas pipelines; the moratorium is based on where the supply is constrained among these pipelines (e.g., Tennessee and Algonquin).
- In addition to considering applications submitted by March 15, Con Edison also will consider:
 - natural gas fueled emergency generators for home use; interruptible gas service; transfer from one property owner to the next; transfer in use provided it does not result in an increase in demand (e.g., a bagel store becomes a deli).
- Con Edison is pursuing options to address the "supply/demand imbalance" including
 - Measures to decrease demand:
 - "Smart" solutions
 - Enhanced efficiency
 - Gas demand response [decreasing demand at peak demand periods]
 - Gas innovation program
 - Measures to increase supply, though the time to effectuate and the amount of increased supply, are problematic:
 - Increase pipeline capacity
 - Truck compressed natural gas
 - Renewable gas
 - Alternatives:
 - Geothermal (ground source) and air source heat pumps and electric resistance heating
 - Electric induction cook tops
 - Other traditional fuels

If you have submitted an application to Con Edison for natural gas service and are concerned about its status or are considering submitting an application for new service, please feel free to contact me so I may try to assist.

The Supervisors' Show - March Edition

Noise Law Amendment

Objectives of the
Wireless Facilities Working Group
Bedford Riding Lanes Association



Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

\$1 Million NYS Grant for Sewer Project

We are very grateful for a grant award of \$1 million toward our sewer project. Governor Cuomo announced the award on December 18 under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Program. The project is described in the award: "The Town of Bedford will construct a sewage collection system consisting of six miles of sewer main and three sewage pump stations. This project will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Upper New Croton Reservoir, a drinking water supply for New York City." Please see below for an update on the sewer project.

Update on Sewer Project – Looking Ahead to Phase II

The Town remains on course to begin construction in late summer/early fall of 2019 on the sewer project. By way of background, this project has its origins going back as much as a century when Katonah Village Improvement Society first discussed the benefits of sewers for the hamlet. There had been several attempts to bring sewers to the more densely populated areas of Bedford Hills and Katonah septic systems are more likely to fail due to their age, small lot size (less area for septic fields) or poor soil conditions.

The sewer project addresses the most severe septic issues which are in the hamlet business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah. It also provides for sewer service for Katonah Elementary School, Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills and property of St. Mary's Church in Katonah – all as alternative to individual wastewater treatment facilities at each of these sites.

We are fortunate to have significant funding from third party sources providing over 95% of the estimated \$23 million project costs.

New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is the source of \$13.1 million of the funding; Westchester County's Water Quality Improvement Program fund is the source of up to \$6.5 million and we were just awarded a \$1 million water quality grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. We also have an agreement with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

providing for DOCCS conveyance to the Town of its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the two correctional facilities in Bedford Hills. This conveyance is authorized under special "Home Rule" legislation adopted by the New York State legislature and the Governor signed into law earlier this year.

The Town Board recognizes that the project which will get underway in 2019 only addresses some of the wastewater problems facing our community. We need to do more. For this reason in September the Town Board commissioned Woodard & Curran, design engineers for the sewer project, to consider a Phase II. Woodard & Curran has completed its preliminary assessment and issued its report with regard to it. [Read report .](#)

The report suggests that we consider an expansion of the capacity of the Bedford Hills WWTP. They also suggested extending the sewer system to connect the rental and condominium units at Bedford Lake (adjacent to the Bedford Hills Memorial Park). This would be in collaboration with NYCDEP as an alternative to a new wastewater treatment facility at this site. In this regard, we have been made aware that NYCDEP is in a holding pattern with regard to its replacement project. It may be mutually advantageous for NYCDEP, the Town and residents at Bedford Lake to consider the alternative approach, as the Town and NYCDEP are in the process of implementing under Phase I with respect to Bedford Park Apartments, Katonah Elementary School and property of St. Mary's Church in Katonah, as mentioned above.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

Update on Cell Towers and Wireless Communications – Moving Ahead in 2019

As we move into 2019, the Town Board will be evaluating the wireless communication needs of the Police Department as well as those of the Fire Departments and the Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We also wish to consider the public safety needs of the general public in light of deficiencies in wireless service in certain areas of town.

We will not do this in vacuum, but rather in concert with the public safety agencies as well as Westchester County which historically has been at the center of addressing wireless communication needs for the County and municipalities.

The County is recipient of federal funds which in part finance projects to address such needs. In particular the County is in the process of implementing a major upgrade to the County's communications system which will include public safety agencies throughout the County (including those in the Town of Bedford).

We also need to consider the overlay of federal law. We need to recognize that the Federal Communications Act and orders of the Federal Communications Commission largely pre-empt municipalities in decisions regarding the siting of cell towers as well as other wireless facilities. What this means is that municipalities are left with a sliver of authority. We need to consider how best to exercise it.

It is apparent that we have both a challenge and an opportunity. A challenge in light of the existing and anticipated applications of wireless carriers, such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, and tower developers serving the carriers to site cell towers within the town to advance their quest for 5G service.

An opportunity to the extent that we can identify locations, such as existing tower sites and municipal property, that may have the least impact on residential communities. With the carriers and tower developers knocking on the door of our towns, it is apparent that we might at least attempt to accomplish the following:

1. Before the edicts of the Federal Communications Act and Federal Communications Commission's orders

overtake us, let's see whether we can find common ground (literally and figuratively) with the carriers/developers on sites which work for them and work for us or at least have less adverse impact than if they were to go about selecting such sites on their own.

2. If we can find common ground with carriers/developers, it is possible that the cost of new facilities (towers/antennae) will be borne by them in whole or in part while also providing revenue sources.
3. Partner with the County to combine all wireless telecommunications needs on existing and prospective towers:
 - a. Emergency services, as needed:
State, County police, fire, ambulance.
 - b. Cell service as proposed by carriers/developers – let's recognize that this is a public safety need for us and not simply revenue source for them
4. NYS, County and our towns potentially may benefit by averting protracted and expensive battles with carriers/developers; providing needed cell service for our communities; having a modicum of control over the sites and perhaps avoiding siting forced upon us in residential neighborhoods; reducing expense to the County, municipalities and public safety agencies.

This will not be easy, but we believe it is preferable to be pro-active in addressing these issues than reactive. As to the former, we have a better chance of having at least a modicum of control as well as the possibility of funding sources to finance wireless equipment for our public safety agencies as well as providing improved wireless service for the community, which itself is a public safety matter and not simply a matter of convenience.

I expect the process will be frustrating, time-consuming and difficult. It also at least at times, will be politically difficult because inevitably there will be some unavoidable adverse impacts.

I do, however, strongly feel it is worth a try.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

The Police Station Solar-Topped Carports

The plans for the Police Station had long included carports to extend the life of police vehicles and reduce police officer time in making them ready for operation in inclement weather. We initially reasonably believed the carports would be financed through third party solar developers. Due to a change in tax and state incentive programs through the Public Service Commission, the financial viability for such projects in NYSEG service area disappeared. As a result, the Town is moving ahead with the carports at a cost of \$302,436. The carports will have solar panels as roofs. If the Town had elected to proceed with carports without solar panels, the cost would have been approximately \$250,000 or about \$52,000 less. It should be noted, however, that the Town will receive a credit estimated at \$18,067.50 from NYSEDA reducing the difference to about \$34,400. It is estimated that the solar panels will generate over 60% of the electricity needs of the station.

Update on Septic System Repair and Replacement Program

This program, which the Town Board approved in my first term as Supervisor, established a \$3.5 million fund (provided by Westchester County under its Water Quality Improvement Program) to assist property owners in repair or replacement of failed septic systems.

The program allows Bedford property owners in the Croton Watershed (about 85% of the Town's land area) a 50% reimbursement of repair/replacement costs. Planning Director Jeff Osterman reports that approximately \$625,000 has been disbursed from the fund, which represents \$1,250,000 in repaired or replaced septic systems. Please be reminded that NYS Department of Environmental Conservation mandated local law requires that septic systems be pumped out at least once every five years. We established the Town's Septic System Repair and Replacement program to coincide with the implementation of those state mandates so that if a homeowner has a failing septic system, the homeowner could get some help from the fund. If you have a failing septic system, contact the Planning Department at 666-4434 for further information or visit our website.

Update - Possible Cell Tower at Town Property at 425 Cherry Street

As I mentioned previously, Homeland Towers, a company which builds towers for wireless providers, including Verizon, has indicated an interest in placing a tower at the Town's property at 425 Cherry Street to enhance wireless communications in the area. We have discussed with Homeland the possibility of providing police communication and other emergency communication equipment on top of the tower to replace aging equipment located on the Police Department's antenna atop the police station would be a significant benefit to the Town and the community.

Another potential site to erect a cell tower is on property owned by Petre Glass & Mirror on Haines Road (past Dunkin Donuts). However, only one of these locations will be necessary to address the providers' concerns. The Planning Board will review the application for the Petre Glass site and the Town Board will review the alternate siting at 425 Cherry Street. We will ask Homeland to provide balloon tests for both sites. We will notify the community when these tests are going to be performed.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

Tree Inventory of Town Trees

Thanks to the work of the Conservation Board, with the endorsement of the Tree Advisory Board, the Town earlier this year was awarded a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Urban Forestry Grant for performing an inventory of trees and management plan in the Town three parks, other Town properties and its right of way along the streets.

Trees are an important component of parks in the Town. They offer shade for people walking/hiking or even watching a sporting event. They create habitat for local wildlife and are an important component of the wildlife corridors that the Town encourages as part of its comprehensive plan. Developing an inventory, assessing tree health and developing a management plan will provide the Town with the information it needs to improve the quality and diversity of its forest resources.

Trees beautify the streetscape, increase property values and also serve as an environmental resource by filtering storm water, purifying the air and sequestering carbon, reducing the heat index, and serving as a windbreak.


The Town needs an understanding of the location and types of trees and the health of those trees along its cul-de-sacs. A management plan that includes the Town's street trees will allow the Town to budget for their care, as well as for future plantings.

This inventory will provide a baseline of the number, location, health, and type of trees on public property and in the Town's rights-of-way.

This inventory will then be the basis for a community forest plan that will guide the Town, the Conservation Board, the Tree Advisory Board and its volunteers in the management of the community forest over a seven year period.

The inventory is expected to take through to the end of October and a final tally of the trees will be presented to the Town board once the inventory is complete.

The Town awarded the contract for carrying out the tree inventory to the low bidder Davey Resource Group.



February 2019
Supervisor Chris Burdick's February Report
February 28, 2019



As we're about to turn the calendar to March, our thoughts also turn to Spring – not far away notwithstanding the cold and wintry mix forecast for this weekend. Spring is a busy season for the community and here at the Town as well. Among other things, our Highway Department will be updating its condition assessment of the Town's 97 miles of paved roads in preparation for making recommendations to the Town Board on this year's paving projects.

Our Recreation & Parks Department will be preparing for summer registrations and the grounds crew readying the parks for the summer season.

We're also moving ahead with New York City Department of Environmental Protection so that this Summer/early Fall we can start construction on the sewer system. I'll do my best to keep you posted on developments.

COMING SOON: 2018 TOWN OF BEDFORD ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall with
County Executive George Latimer
and County Legislator Kitley Covill

Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 AM

Bedford Hills Train Station
46 Depot Plaza
Bedford Hills, NY 10507



Photo credits: <http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org/> • <http://bedfordloveshorses.com/> • Phyllis Pacifico-Cohen • Daryl Ann Sudlow

Click image above to read February Report

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

I-684

It's been a long haul trying to persuade New York State to pave the concrete portion of I-684 that runs through Bedford (the same original surface from the late 1960s). You may remember that in early 2014 shortly after coming into office, I started working with Assembly David Buchwald and then State Senator George Latimer to urge the re-paving of the portion of I-684 which runs through Bedford. We also worked with Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to press for funds from Washington, since 80% to 90% of the funds to repair our State's highways comes from the federal government.

Thanks principally to the efforts of Assemblyman Buchwald a portion of the Bedford section was paved (the southerly portion up to Harris Road). But the portion from Harris Road through a bit north of Exit 6 is in terrible condition. One of our residents who is an engineer and works on major road projects described it in an e-mail earlier this week: "Spring has arrived!! Please take the time to drive northbound and southbound on I-684, including the exit ramps.

The pavement deterioration has become very severe in some areas due to the harsh winters. You may see large chunks of concrete in the shoulders that have broken free from the mainline pavement. Perhaps the board can urge the NYSDOT Highway Department to have maintenance crews fill the pot holes in the Katonah corridor as a priority."

Your voice matters, so please contact our elected representatives to urge action to fix the unsafe road:

Governor Cuomo: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>; also try 1-518-474-8390

DOT Albany office: 518-457-6195

DOT Region 8 Acting Regional Director Lance MacMillan: 845-431-5750

If you send an e-mail, please consider copying me and our legislators:

State Assemblyman David Buchwald: buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us, 914-244-4450

State Senator Shelley Mayer: smayer@nysenate.gov, 518-455-2031

*I welcome suggestions and comments to my monthly reports,
my weekly newsletter and my news to the community.*

Best regards,



Chris