



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

County Executive **George Latimer** and
Westchester County Legislator **Kitley Covill**
invite you to join your friends and neighbors
for a casual conversation over coffee.
Come meet your Elected County Officials,
ask questions and discuss County issues.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

SATURDAY
March 2, 2019
10:00 a.m.
**Bedford Hills
Train Station**
46 Depot Plaza
Bedford Hills, NY

Coffee provided at no taxpayer expense

**Westchester
gov.com** **NO RSVP REQUIRED**
For more information, please call (914) 995-2804.

Pothole Season is Here – Please Help Us Help You

It's always pothole season for our Highway Department, however, winter wreaks the greatest havoc on our roads. The vacillation in temperatures so typical of late winter with freezing followed by thawing and then back to freezing again is especially hard on the Town's roads.

We will be working as promptly as we can to restore our roads to good condition – though of course, snow removal operations will take precedence to provide safe travel. In addition to working to fix potholes, the Town Board has budgeted \$1.3 million for paving in 2019, continuing the gradual increases in the annual paving budget.

As to potholes you find in our Town roads, please call our **Pothole Hotline at 666-7669** or feel free to **contact me at 666-6530** or **Supervisor@bedfordny.gov**.

For potholes on the NYS roads traversing the Town (Routes 22, 117, 121, 137 and 172) please call NYS's pothole line at 1-800-POTHOLE.

We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Get Your Free Reusable Bag Before the April 1 Launch of the Reusable Bag law

On April 1, Bedford's law goes into effect and from then on customers who arrive at the check-out counter without a reusable bag and request a bag will be charged a dime for each paper or plastic bag. We don't want you to pay a dime!

So we've teamed up with Shoprite, DeCicco's and Key Foods who are now in the middle of a massive distribution to their customers without charge of reusable bags. Shoprite is giving away 6,200 and DeCicco's and Key Foods 1,000 each.

But once April 1 arrives, they won't be giving them out for free any more. So get your free reusable bags now before supplies run out.

Thank you for using



a reusable bag



For more information please visit:
www.bedford2020/choose-reusable.org



Comptroller's Report

Town Comptroller, Abraham Zambrano, reported on February 15 to the Town Board results for January 2019 as follows:

January 2, 2019 marks one year since "going live" with the MUNIS' financial modules and I'm pleased to report that the software has allowed many internal processes to be streamlined especially as it pertains to purchasing and reporting. Arrangements have been made to provide subsequent training to all end users now that the staff is familiar with the software. Over the next several months, we will continue to roll out other options available to the staff, including billing. Conversely, we were finally able to "go live" with the Payroll module on January 1, 2019 after several months of working with Tyler Technologies to ensure that the intricacies of the collective bargaining agreements were properly captured in the set up. Over the next several months, we will be rolling out the "ESS" (Employee Self Service) module that will allow employees to view their paystubs every pay cycle and W-2s at year end. In order to make a smooth transition from paper to digital format, we will set up informational sessions for employees to become familiar with the module.

Based on the current financial data, we anticipate that the final figures for 2018, subject to the auditor's report, will show increases in the Town's two major funds, General and Highway. At the time of this report, the General Fund will be adding in excess of \$200,000 to Fund Balance, while the Highway Fund will add just over \$50,000 to its Reserves. The increase in reserves is attributed to the receipt of revenues in excess of budgeted amounts and the diligent efforts of the department heads to do more with less. Once the annual audit is completed, by the end of April 2019, financial reports will be delivered to the Town Board by the auditors later in the spring.

As for January 2019, the Building Department collected \$49,403 in fees, while Parking Revenues for the month of January totaled \$41,282, which includes \$28,008 collected from daily commuters that use Lot 3 on Woods Bridge Road. The Westchester County Finance Department has made Sales Tax amounts available for the month of January 2019.

The February 2019 financial report will include projection schedules typically provided to the Board.

Warm up with Hot Cider and Heat Pumps!

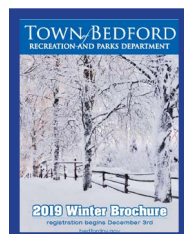
Join us at the Bedford Playhouse on Monday, March 4th from 7:00-8:30pm for a cider tasting and get a taste of our newest campaign, HeatSmart Westchester!

Meet the contractors and talk with neighbors who have improved their home energy usage, as we kickoff our HeatSmart Bedford-Lewisboro- Pound Ridge campaign to promote climate friendly heating and cooling systems. Join us! RSVP here: <http://bedford2020.org/hot-cider-and-heat-pumps/>

- Taste a variety of apple ciders handcrafted by Thompson Cider Mill
- Get a free movie ticket for a future visit to the Bedford Playhouse
- Learn more about air source heat pumps, geothermal heating and cooling systems, and saving energy
- Meet the contractors: Bruni & Campisi, Heathy Home Energy & Consulting, Inc. and Dandelion Energy.



**For more information visit
www.HeatSmartWestchester.com
or call (914) 302-7300 ext. 1**



Winter Brochure - Sign up now!
For the full brochure please [click here](#)

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 this coming Tuesday, March 5 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
from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Thursday 9/5

Town Recycling Center
343 Railroad Avenue
Bedford Hills 10507
from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Saturday 5/4 at our Crusher Road highway yard, 1 Crusher Road Bedford Village 10506 from 9:00 to 12:00.

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 cooktops
 - 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.

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.

**THE SUPERVISOR'S
JANUARY MONTHLY REPORT
(CLICK HERE)**


Supervisor Chris Burdick's December Report
 December 31, 2018



*I wish to extend my best wishes for 2019.
Have a happy, healthy and safe New Year*

Town offices will be closed on January 1, 2019 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday and will re-open on January 2, 2019.

Note to readers: for highlights of the upcoming January 3, 2019 meeting, please refer to my [December 28 newsletter](#).

The newsletter also includes prior posts on the

- 2019 Town budget
- Amendments to the ten year Capital Plan
- The now-completed Police Station renovation project
- The Town's new local law on wireless facilities
- The possibility of a cell tower on Town property at or near the Town offices at 425 Cherry Street
- The schedule for 2019 shredder services
- The new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the PBA.

Open House for Police Station Renovation Project

With the Police Station renovation project now complete except for a handful of "punch list" items, we're planning to invite the community in to take a look.

We're scheduling an Open House for 10AM to noon on Saturday, February 9, 2019 (rain/snow date is February 23).

I hope you can join us.

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

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