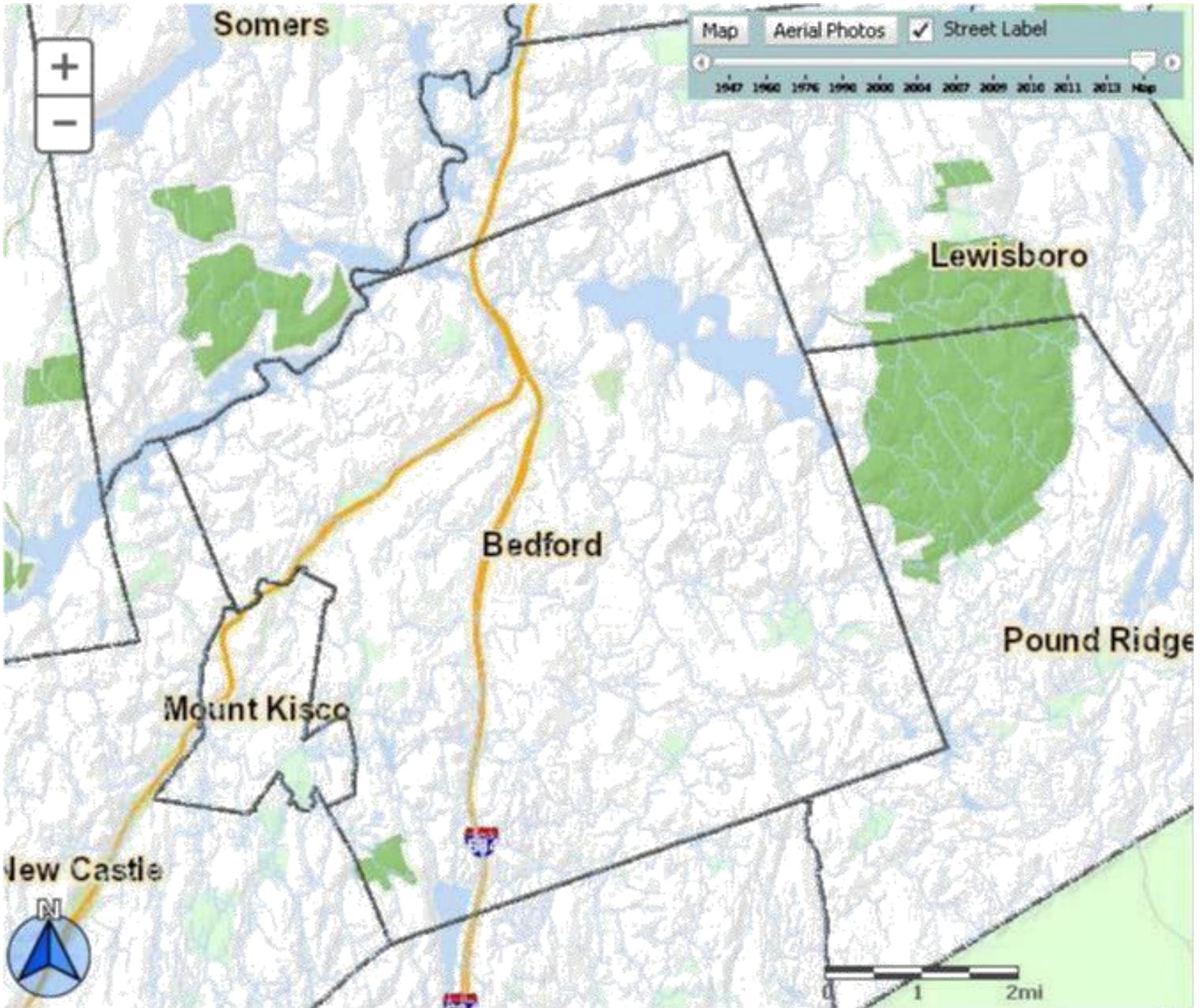


The Town of **BEDFORD** *New York*



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



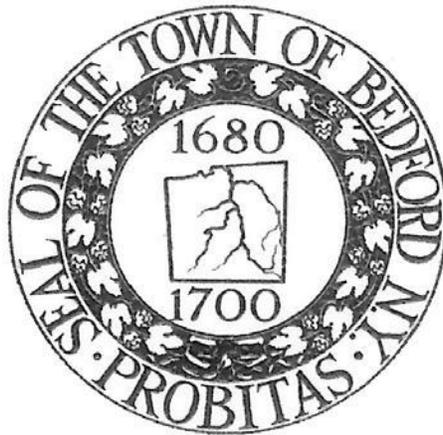
Hydrology Map courtesy of Westchester County Geographic Information Systems.

TOWN OF BEDFORD, NY

Founded in 1680

Population: 17,335 (2010 Census Data)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD
NEW YORK



FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

TOWN OF BEDFORD
321 BEDFORD ROAD
BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/>

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TOWN GOVERNMENT TOWN BOARD 2015



Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor



Francis Corcoran
Board Member



David Gabrielson
Deputy Supervisor
Board Member



Mary Beth Kass
Board Member



Don Scott
Board Member

We welcome our newest member of the Town Board, Lee Roberts, who joined the Board on January 1, 2016.



TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board meets twice monthly (first and third Tuesdays or as set by the Board)
Town of Bedford Town House • 321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Main phone number: (914) 666-6530 • Fax: (914) 666-5249

The Town Board is a five-member elected board that consists of four Board Members and the Town Supervisor. The Board Members are elected for four-year terms, and the Supervisor is elected for a two-year term. The Town Board functions as a legislative body of the Town and is responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget, and enacting laws and resolutions for the “health, safety and welfare” of the Town’s residents. The Supervisor functions as the Chief Fiscal Officer and Chief Executive Officer. A Deputy Supervisor is appointed to assist with the duties of the Supervisor during his or her absence. All Town Board meetings are open to the public, and only certain legally sensitive issues may be discussed in a private executive session. Please refer to the Town’s website, www.bedfordny.gov, for the time, location and agenda of meetings.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN CLERK



Lisbeth (Boo) Fumagalli
Town Clerk

Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Hours of Operation: 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday
Evening/weekend appointments are available by appointment for Town residents only.
Main phone number: (914) 666-4534 • Fax: (914) 666-5249
Email: Townclerk@bedfordny.gov

The Town Clerk is elected to a four-year term and serves as the Records Management Officer and the Registrar of Vital Statistics. This office is responsible for the safekeeping of Town records and assists in local elections.

TOWN JUSTICES

Erick P. Jacobsen
Justice



David A. Menken
Justice



The Town of Bedford has two Town Justices, each elected to a four-year term, holding sessions of Criminal Court, Civil Court and Traffic Court. Sessions are held in the Courtroom located at the Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507.

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

<p>County Executive Robert Astorino ceo@westchestergov.com 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-2127</p>	
<p>County Legislator Francis Corcoran Corcoran@westchesterlegislators.com 148 Marine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-2810</p>	<p>County Clerk Timothy C. Idoni Cclerk@westchestergov.com 110 Dr. Marine Luther King Jr. Blvd. White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-3080</p>

NEW YORK STATE

<p>State Senator George S. Latimer (D, Dist. 37) latimer@nysenate.gov 222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300 Portchester, NY 10573 (914) 934-5350</p>	<p>Assemblyman David Buchwald (D, Dist. 93) buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us 125-131 East Main Street, Suite 204 Mount Kisco, NY 10549 (914) 244-4450</p>
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UNITED STATES

<p>Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-IN-L) senator@schumer.senate.gov 780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301 New York, NY 10017 (212) 486-4430</p>	<p>Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D) http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/ 780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601 New York, NY 10017 (212) 688-6262</p>
<p>Representative Sean P. Maloney (D, Dist. 18) https://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact/email-me 123 Grand Street, Newburgh, NY 12550 (845) 561-1259</p>	

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Bedford depends on its many dedicated volunteers, and we want to thank them for their many hours of service and active involvement and generous contributions to our community. The members of the Town's numerous boards, commissions and committees spend countless hours working for the benefit of the Town and its residents.

If you would like to become involved in volunteering for a board or committee, please contact the Town Supervisor, Chris Burdick at (914) 666-6530 or email him at supervisor@bedfordny.gov. Applications and board/commission/committee descriptions can be found on <http://www.bedfordny.gov/>.

BOARDS

Conservation Board
 Drug Abuse Prevention Council
 Board of Ethics
 Planning Board *
 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
 Tree Advisory Board
 Zoning Board of Appeals *

COMMISSIONS

Historic Building Preservation Commission
 Katonah Historic District Commission
 Bedford Village District Review Commission
 Wetlands Control Commission *

COMMITTEES

Bedford Town Housing Committee
 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
 Open Space Acquisition Committee
 Bedford Cemetery Committee
 Communications Advisory Committee
 Filming Committee
 Veterans Advisory Committee – Formed on November 5, 2015.
 Committee on Seniors- Formed on December 15, 2015

*These Boards offer paid positions

ANNUAL REPORT



Emergency Vehicles

Photo Provided by: Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Fire Protection in each hamlet is provided through the efforts of wholly volunteer Fire Departments, which provide round-the-clock protection. Volunteers are vital to the departments and anyone interested should contact anyone of the Fire Departments.



Bedford Village Volunteer Fire Department
34 Village Green
Bedford, New York 10506
<http://www.bedfordfire.com>



Bedford Hills Volunteer Fire Department
332 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507
<http://www.bedfordhillsfd.org/>



Katonah Volunteer Fire Department
65 Bedford Road
Katonah, New York 10536
<http://www.katonahfd.org/>

TOWN OF BEDFORD

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department	Contact	Email	Telephone
Alarm Permits	Alexandra O'Connor	alarms@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7273
Animal Control	Dog Control Officer	dogcontrol@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4855
Assessor	Harold Girdlestone	assessor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5149
Building Inspector	Steven Fraietta	buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8040
Conservation Board	Jeff Osterman	conservation@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4434
Finance/Comptroller	Ed Ritter	finance@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8283
Historian	John Stockbridge	historian@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4745
Parking Permits	Mariann Harold	parking@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8097
Personnel	Joan Gallagher	personnel@bedfordny.gov	914.864.3835
Planning	Jeff Osterman	planning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4434
Police Chief	Mel Padilla	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Police Records	Records Clerk	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Public Works/Commissioner	Kevin Winn	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.666.snow
Recycling	Public Works	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.241.2671
Recreation & Parks/ Superintendent	William Heidepriem	recreation@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7004
Town Supervisor	Chris Burdick	supervisor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6530
Town Clerk	Lisbeth Fumagalli	townclerk@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4534
Town Court	Nancy Artese or Diane Georgio	court@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6965
Tax Receiver	Amy Pectol	receiver@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4475
Water Department	William Nickson	water@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7855
Wetlands Commission	Jeff Osterman	wetlands@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5140
Zoning Board (ZBA)	Alexandra Costello	zoning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4585

ANNUAL REPORT



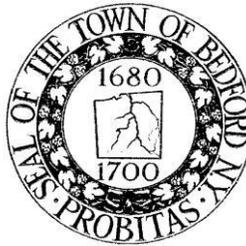
TOWN OF BEDFORD
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

Chris Burdick
 Supervisor

Lee V.A. Roberts
 Deputy Supervisor

Bea Rhodes

Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor



TOWN BOARD
Mary Beth Kass
Don B. Scott

2015 Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the Town enjoyed another successful and productive year and to present our 2015 Annual Report which describes our work last year in serving the community. This report provides a department by department summary of activities over the course of 2015, including policy and planning directives the Town has pursued, improvements that have been implemented, and an outline of initiatives designed to address the community's ongoing fiscal and service oriented challenges. My colleagues on the Town Board and I are honored to play a part, but we know it would not be possible without the excellent work of our department heads and Town employees. They all worked tirelessly to deliver a high level of services, with improvements in many areas, while ensuring that the Town is Tax Cap compliant. The greatest thanks goes to the many citizens who volunteer their time, talents and energy to serve on our boards and committees and the hundreds who serve our Town in our fire departments, ambulance corps, library boards, museum boards, historic societies, and so many other community groups and civic organizations. We in Bedford are blessed with the extraordinarily high level of civic engagement. This truly is what makes Bedford the wonderful town it is.

Your Town Board has been working on a variety of projects which will have a lasting positive impact on our community. I wish to thank my colleagues on the Town Board, Councilwoman Mary Beth Kass, Councilman Don Scott, and newly elected Councilwoman and Deputy Supervisor Lee Roberts. Thanks also to former Councilman Francis Corcoran and David Gabrielson for their many years of dedicated service to the Town.

We hope that you will find this Annual Report a useful resource to provide background on where the Town is placing its efforts and allocating taxpayer dollars. Developing an Annual Report that is informative and organized requires planning, creativity and attention to detail. I wish to thank Town Clerk Boo Fumagalli, Town Justices Erik Jacobsen and David Menken, Tax Assessor Harold Girdlestone, Building Inspector Steven Fraietta, Planning Director Jeffrey Osterman, Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn, Comptroller Edward Ritter, Personnel Director Joan Gallagher, Recreation and Parks Superintendent William Heidepriem, Police Chief Melvin Padilla and Tax Receiver Amy Pectol and Town Historian John Stockbridge. I also wish to thank our Planning Department Intern, Drew Gamils for her considerable work in helping to prepare this report.

In 2015, as with other years, the Town Board and staff worked conscientiously toward fiscal responsibility, accountability, community engagement, and progressive and sustainable town planning. As you will see in this report, we accomplished many goals in 2015. The following are highlights from my perspective as Supervisor.

Government Efficiency Plan and Tax Cap Compliance – Tax Freeze Refund Checks

New York's Tax Freeze law reimburses eligible homeowners for property tax increases for each of the taxing jurisdictions in which they live which complies with the tax cap law (go to the Town's website or send me an e-mail to learn more). For the Town and the Fire Districts, we need to live within our means under a tax cap compliant budget and also adopt a Government Efficiency Plan which provides at least a 1% sustained tax levy savings. The Town and the Fire Districts collaborated on the Government Efficiency Plan by collectively compiling a Government Efficiency Plan (special thanks to Hank Bergson). The savings was over 3.3%. The Town's budget was under the tax cap again in 2015 (as well as for 2016). The result is that eligible homeowners received the Tax Freeze Refund check in late January 2016.

On December 1, 2015 the Town Board adopted the 2016 Town budget. This year's budget meets the Town Board's objectives of staying below the tax cap, maintaining or improving Town services and providing a sustainable financial course in the coming years. The budget carries a tax levy increase of 1.93% which is comfortably below the State tax cap of 2.17%

Town Auditor Reports Strong Financial Position; Triple AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Presenting the 2014 audit at the Town Board's April 21 meeting, Alan Kassay of the Town's auditors, PKF O'Connor Davies, summed up that the Town is in a very strong financial position. At year end, the Town's general fund balances had increased substantially, highway funds and special district funds remain strong, our internal controls are sound and our debt levels are modest. As the Comptroller reports, due to strong financial management and strong planning tools utilized by the town, Standard and Poor's rating agency reaffirmed its top bond rating for the Town of AAA/Stable. This rating translated to real savings in the form of lower interest rates. With our multi-year Capital Plan in place from 2014, the Town issued bonds in 2015 for capital projects which resulted in a very favorable annual interest rate of 2.36% (for maturities over twenty years). This will have long term savings for residents with low debt repayment.

Saving Taxpayer Dollars with Improved Efficiencies

Quick access to records and documents benefits residents and businesses doing business with the Town. It also boosts staff efficiency making it easier for them to operate under reduced staffing levels. In the reports from our departments which follow, you'll read about the Clerk's Office scanning approximately 60% of its files; the Building Department scanned over 21,000 building permits, implementation of computer tablets simplified the issuance of building

inspection reports and new software upgrades have greatly improved work flow and office efficiency; and the Town Justice Court improved court record management and storage policies and practices.

Town Services

We are happy to hear the positive community feedback on the services provided by our Department of Public Works, with conscientious and speedy snow removal, road paving and road repairs and drainage work; the Police Department for its protection of the community (recently ranked as one of the safest in the state); and Recreation and Parks Department for the splendid and beautifully maintained hamlet pools, parks and other facilities and its well-regarded programs; and for the Building and Planning Departments that help residents and businesses work through applications and needs. Here are some of the improvements in services:

- The Town continued into 2015 its higher funding level for road paving at \$1.1 million from the previous \$850,000 level. The 2016 approved budget continues the \$1.1 million funding level.
- The Town launched a program for Town Co-Sponsorship of community events to share in the cost of overtime costs for approved events.
- In the fall of 2015 a new contractor for the Town recycling center improved services by providing for Single Stream recycling so residents don't need to dispose of their recyclables in separate categories. Residents can now place all of their conventional recyclables (plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, and small metal) in one container at the recycling center.
- The Assessor's Office in 2015 was able to make available in its office access to scanned property records
- The Clerk's Office now handles nearly all applications for film permits, saving residents and businesses the need to appear before the Town Board.
- The Recreation and Parks Department coordinated a new outreach program called "Call & Check" to contact seniors and others to ensure they are safe during Town wide emergencies
- In 2015, the Court changed its schedule for vehicle and traffic matters, starting court earlier in the day to accommodate people who cannot miss an entire day of work to come to court to meet with a prosecutor and appear before a Judge.
- Hours for the restrooms in the Bedford Hills train station were extended (now are 5:30 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday)
- The Town Board established a Veterans Advisory Committee and a Senior Advisory Committee to better serve these groups.

Renovating Town Facilities and Other Capital Projects

Renovation and Addition to Police Station We are proceeding with a major renovation of the police station which has been professionally assessed as being functionally obsolete. The station building, formerly a restaurant, has not had any significant work in over 40 years. The renovations will include two additions and a conference room which will enable the department to hold training sessions which would include other police agencies with the prospect for revenues. We are working through Sustainable Westchester's Municipal Solar Buyers Group to have the entire approximately \$100,000 cost of solar panels assumed through a power purchasing agreement with a firm specializing in such installations which would take advantage of

generous federal tax credits. During the renovation, temporary quarters for the department will be in the lower level of the Townhouse building. Both cost and time savings are being achieved through use of town forces for the carpentry work in fitting out the lower level.

Adams Street Highway Garage and New Recycling Center

In 2014 the Town Board approved a \$2.5 million renovation plan for the Adams Street Highway Yard. The project necessitates relocating the adjacent recycling center to a new site on Railroad Avenue (at no cost to the Town due to the cooperation of the NYS Department of Transportation which owns the land and has provided it to the Town under a use and occupancy agreement). We had hoped that by now we would have been underway with work on Highway Yard, however, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires a stormwater infiltration system to mitigate runoff which affects its watershed. Relocating the recycling center from Adams Street to Railroad Avenue is scheduled to occur by July 1, 2016. Next steps include completing drainage work, paving the area, and installing a fence to secure the site. Once the recycling center is relocated, the Town intends to re-grade the north portion of the Adams Street Highway Yard and install a new winter materials storage structure to replace the existing undersized, deteriorated structure. This work is scheduled to be completed by November 2017. Subsequent to completing the installation of the new winter materials storage structure the Town's Department of Public Works will move forward with the second phase of the Adams Street Highway Yard upgrades, designing and installing a new mechanical maintenance bay and truck wash bay.

- **2015 Park Renovations, Improvements and Plans**
 - The Bedford Village Memorial Park's four tennis courts were renovated
 - A new modular Parks storage building was delivered and installed at the Katonah Memorial Park.
 - The large center fountain at Lake Marie has been equipped with new LED lighting.
 - The Bedford Hills Memorial Park Master Plan project was completed to serve as a guide to future park improvements.
- **Maintaining Town Buildings and Infrastructure**
 - In 2015 the remaining asbestos was removed from the Bedford Hills Community House
 - The roof of 21 Park Avenue was replaced.
 - Repairs and replacements were made to the train station.
 - Replaced deteriorated drainage systems
 - Paved 8.5 miles of Town roads

Increased Communication

My weekly eNews has evolved into a summary of activities at the Town government level. We also now provide a comprehensive weekly Community Calendar compiled from information and website postings from community organizations. I've expanded the monthly Supervisor reports, and increased postings to the Town's websites. We reply and post, as appropriate, to community Facebook pages as well as my Facebook page. We have informed the residents on a variety of subjects through mailings, eNews and other media outlets on a variety of subjects, including Single Stream, septic system repair and replacement program, updates on the Town Comprehensive Plan,

Septic System Repair and Replacement Program

The Town established a \$3.5 million septic system repair and replacement fund for Bedford properties within the New York City watershed – this is approximately 85% of Bedford’s land area. No Bedford taxpayer dollars were required for the fund which comes entirely from “East of Hudson Water Quality Improvement Program” funds (provided many years ago by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection) over which the County is custodian. The program provides up to 50% of approved eligible expenses for construction of repair remediation or replacement of a septic system, as well as design engineering costs not to exceed 20% of total construction costs. The funds may be used where a septic system, which may be residential or commercial, is in failure as determined by the Westchester County Department of Health.

Sustainability and Moving Ahead with 2020 Goals

The Town proudly remains a leader in the state on sustainability leadership on several fronts. I am honored to have been re-elected co-chair of Sustainable Westchester a consortium of nearly all of the municipalities in Westchester County. We’ve been making excellent progress in bringing cutting edge sustainable programs to individuals, businesses and municipalities. I thank my colleagues on the Town Board for supporting the Town’s participation in these efforts.

Community Choice Aggregation

The Town of Bedford was among the first municipality to adopt Community Choice Aggregation or CCA, through Sustainable Westchester. CCA is an energy procurement program that enables municipalities to aggregate and put out for bid the total demand for electricity and natural gas of participating homes and small businesses and purchase energy on their behalf. Aggregating consumers on a large scale creates the market clout necessary to negotiate lower rates with private suppliers. Last year Sustainable Westchester was authorized by the New York State Public Service Commission to implement the first CCA program in the state in Westchester County, though it is in place in six other states serving over five million customers. Most programs have grown steadily and have provided customers consistent savings. Sustainable Westchester’s program, which will be known as Westchester Smart Power, also will provide an option to consumers to opt into a 100% renewable energy plan, which likely will cost somewhat more.

Solarize

The Town through the significant efforts and leadership of Bedford 2020 and in partnership with the Village of Mount Kisco secured a grant for Solarize Bedford-Mt Kisco, a unique discount buying program that used a tiered-pricing structure, town-supported education and outreach and a competitively selected installer to dramatically reduce the cost of solar. The use of clean solar energy both reduces energy costs for the consumer and boosts the Town’s progress in its environmental goals of reduced emissions. As Bedford 2020 notes in its Progress Report (see www.bedford2020.org – search words: progress report): *“The 18-week effort generated awareness of and interest in clean solar energy, with over 300 inquiries among residential and commercial building owners. The campaign drove a 43% increase in residential installations, and laid a strong foundation for further adoption of solar and renewable energy in our community.”*

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town Board has asked the Planning Board to take responsibility for updating the Town’s 2002 Comprehensive Plan, which describes the community’s current conditions and provides guidance for future growth and preservation. The first step in the process is hearing from the community its vision for Bedford. We enlisted Pace University’s Land Use Law Center to launch an outreach effort with a series of community meetings. Attendees are organized into small

groups to collect input and facilitate the dialogue. The community meetings began in 2015 and will continue into 2016.

Storm and Emergency Preparedness

I have initiated regular emergency preparedness meetings among the Town's fire departments, Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Town's Police Department and Public Works department. Through funding from our 2014 Capital Plan we acquired software for use by the Police Department to better and more quickly assess storm damage and in near real time communicate the assessment electronically to NYSEG and Con Edison. The meetings also are enhancing communication among all the agencies. The Town of Bedford also continued to work with the County to develop a hazard mitigation plan so that we are eligible to receive Federal grant funding for projects to reduce our risk to natural hazards such as flooding and severe storms. Available funding can support projects such as drainage improvements, structural elevations, and backup power for schools and critical facilities.

Renewed Vitality at the Bedford Hills Train Station

Beginning in the fall of 2015, the train station began showing real life with a community Harvest Festival in October sponsored by Bedford Hills Live, exhibits of the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, the Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, sponsored by Bedford Hills Live, and other events being planned. Neighborhood organizations are working together under the auspices of Recreation and Parks Superintendent Bill Heidepriem has been handling the scheduling and logistics. The Town's lease with the MTA expired in September, however, the MTA has advised the Town that, pending the MTA providing a new long term lease, the Town may remain in occupancy under the terms of the expired lease.

State Roads – Paving Route 172; Efforts to Pave 684

Thanks to the Governor's office with the assistance of Assemblyman David Buchwald, a special funding of over \$3 million is being made to the Regional Office of the New York State Department of Transportation to provide for both drainage work and paving of Route 172 running the distance from the Village Green through Route 137 in Pound Ridge. It is anticipated that the DOT contractors will begin the drainage work this Spring 2016 with the paving to follow it in the summer.

Protecting Our Historic Hamlet Business Districts

To protect our neighborhood businesses, the Town Board adopted an amendment to the Zoning Code related to the hamlet business districts to reduce, except for emergency service providers, to 4,000 square feet the maximum square footage on the first floor of any building for a single permitted use.

Zombie Houses and Property Maintenance

To address the problem of dilapidated structures and neglected properties, the Town has taken strong legal action. In addition, the Town Board adopted a Property Maintenance ordinance, which applies to both vacant and occupied properties, to give new tools to the Building Department in instances in which property owners fail to cure violations after receiving notices. If a property owner fails to act, the Building Department has the authority to perform the work and impose a lien on the property which will appear in the tax bill. These efforts are not intended to be punitive but rather to spur action on the part of recalcitrant property owners or managers.

The Town's successes would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and commitment of many people. We look forward to continued progress and achievement in 2016.

ANNUAL REPORT

As always, I invite you to contact the Town Supervisor's Office to discuss or comment on any of the information contained in this Annual Report. E-mail me at supervisor@bedfordny.gov or call me at 666-6530. I'm here to listen, help and serve.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Burdick".

Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Tel: (914) 666-6530 • Fax: (914) 666-5249
E-Mail: Supervisor@bedfordny.gov

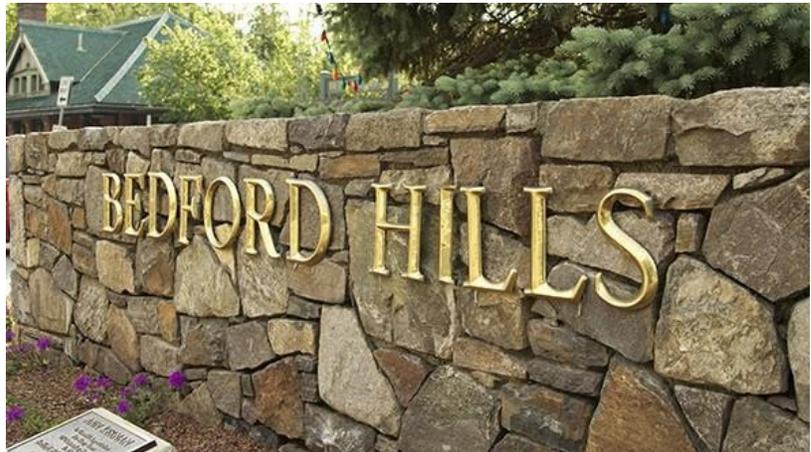
TOWN OF BEDFORD



Bedford General Store – c. 1838 612 Old Post Road
Bedford Village, NY 10536

Photo provided by the Bedford Historical Society
[http://www .bedfordhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org/)

Bedford Hills
46 Depot Plaza
Bedford Hills, NY, 10507-1808



Welcome to Katonah
Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536

ANNUAL REPORT



Lisbeth Fumagalli
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



Nina Kellogg
Deputy Town Clerk

2015 Annual Report

The Town Clerks Office is known as the “Doorway” to local Government.

It is a central place for people to call or visit when they don’t know who else to call or see about a problem. We strive to supply information that we feel is important and helpful to all residents. In the last year we have continued to make improvements to our web site, and have added to our wall full of information 2 very popular brochures: “Emergency Information Handbook” prepared by NYS Governor Cuomo and the “Town of Bedford Resident Brochure” written and maintained by my office. We also have available a wide selection of energy saving tips and programs.

Over 200 years of birth, death and marriage records are maintained by this office and we are frequently asked to research records and provide documents. We act as the Town’s Records Access office as well as the keeper of Town Board minutes and legislative history.

Another area of responsibility in the Town Clerk’s office is the issuance of licenses and permits including hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses, dog licenses, handicap parking permits, local licenses such as peddling and soliciting, cabaret, refuse and taxi cabs licenses, senior refuse tickets and filming.

In looking back on 2015, our revenues for these licenses and permits increased by \$70,821 or 38.5%. This large increase was due primarily to Filming which closed the year at \$91,500 versus \$15,000 in 2014, Senior refuse coupons were down 33% this year; resident dog park permits decreased by 42, 190 vs. 232. Our vitals numbers (Marriage, Birth and Death) were up and our EZ-Pass sales continue to increase – this year by 22%.

Records management is another very important responsibility of our office. We must ensure that all Town records are maintained for the appropriate retention period and they are securely destroyed when appropriate and permanent records are protected.

Our main goal in 2015 was records management. We had new scanning machines and software installed and, with the help of summer interns, scanned about 60% of the Town Clerk

TOWN OF BEDFORD

documents. In addition, our annual Records Management Day for all departments resulted in our disposing of 4.6 tons of paper – this due primarily to our being able to dispose of records that had been scanned in the Building Department. A continued commitment of support to help Bedford attain its 20/20 goal.

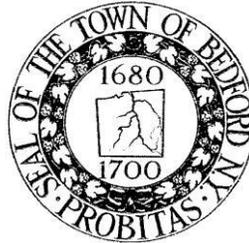
The philosophy in the Clerk's office is that the job description here is "whatever it takes" and we will do continue to do whatever is required to serve the Town residents in Bedford.

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Tel: (914) 666-4543 • Fax: (914) 666-5249
E-Mail: Townclerk@bedfordny.gov

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
JUSTICE COURT

Town Justices

Erik P. Jacobsen
 David A. Menken

*Court Clerk*

Nancy D. Artese
 Diane Georgio

2015 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Justice Court, administered by Justices Erik Jacobsen and David Menken, continued in 2015 to work productively and efficiently in carrying out the administration of justice in the Town of Bedford. With a Court staff of five full-time employees and one part-time employee, we are dedicated to providing the best services possible to the residents of Bedford and all that come before the Court.

The Court in 2015 maintained its traditionally busy calendar. Matters which came before the Court on a weekly basis included cases ranging from criminal, landlord-tenant, small claims, vehicle and traffic, parking, and building and zoning code enforcement cases.

On the civil side, the Court hears actions seeking monetary awards up to \$3,000 and small claims proceedings for awards up to \$3,000. Often, individual litigants do not use an attorney in these matters and are not required to do so. The Court also handles landlord/tenant matters that may involve possible evictions as well as money judgments for back rent.

On the criminal side, the Court handles matters involving the prosecution of misdemeanors and violations that were alleged to have been committed within the Town's geographic boundaries. The Court also conducts arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters. In addition, the Court hears Vehicle and Traffic law misdemeanors and traffic infractions.

Bedford's Town Justices continue to be on call 24 hours a day and are often called upon to arraign defendants on misdemeanor and felony charges as well as to act as Family Court judges when the Westchester County Family Court is not in session. In cases involving domestic violence, the Justices are also authorized to, and in appropriate circumstances do, issue orders of protection.

Eight enforcement divisions bring their matters to Bedford Town Court: (i) the Bedford Police Department (ii) the Bedford Office of Code Enforcement, (iii) The Bedford Dog Ordinance Enforcement Office, (iv) the Bedford Department of Parking Enforcement (patrolling nine municipal parking lots), (v) the Westchester County Police Department (patrolling the Saw Mill Parkway,

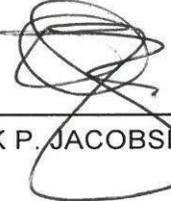
TOWN OF BEDFORD

(vi) the New York State Police Department (patrolling I-684), (vii) the MTA Police Department (with two train stations serving the Town), and (viii) the Department of Environmental Protection (patrolling the reservoirs and the dams).

The Court hears criminal cases on a weekly basis, every Wednesday evening, and holds traffic court twice a month. In 2015, the Court's busy calendar included approximately 325 criminal cases and 9100 vehicle and traffic cases. It is common to hear 30 to 40 criminal cases, and occasionally 60 cases, on a Wednesday evening.

In 2015, the Court changed its schedule for vehicle and traffic matters, starting court earlier in the day to accommodate people who cannot miss an entire day of work to come to court to meet with a prosecutor and appear before a Judge. The Court also improved its records management and storage policies and practices.

The Court has not increased its budget for 2016 in any significant manner, relying instead on increased efficiency and, where possible, on State grants. The Judges are confident that all Court employees will continue to provide excellent service to the Town, and look forward in 2016 to improving the Court while balancing the needs of the citizens, the budget and the staff.



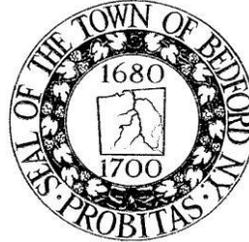
ERIK P. JACOBSEN



DAVID A. MENKEN



**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**



Harold Girdlestone, *Sole Assessor*
hgirdlestone@bedfordny.gov

Tatiana Guaman, *Assessment/Tax Aide*
tguaman@bedfordny.gov

2015 Annual Report

Harold Girdlestone, Assessor
Tatiana Guaman, Assessment/Tax Aide

Summary: The Assessor's Office published the 2015 Tentative Assessment Roll on June 1, 2015 with a stated uniform percent of value of 10.22%. The 2015 assessment is based on the physical inventory of the property as of June 1, 2015 and the market value as of July 1, 2014. There were approximately 130 grievance applications filed with the Board of Assessment Review. The Final Assessment Roll was filed on September 15, 2015. Approximately 90 Small Claims Assessment Review petitions and 43 tax certiorari petitions were filed in contesting their final 2015 assessment.

In 2015, we provided internal access to our scanned property records cards thru Laser fiche and thru the building department's software, Muncity. In 2016, it is our intention to provide access to the scanned cards externally from our public viewer and internet based access.

The Assessor's Office tax maps will begin to be updated digitally beginning in 2016.

2015 Assessment Roll Information:

Valuation Date: July 1st of Prior year

Taxable Status Date: June 1st

Assessment based on Market Value as of this date

Publishing of the Tentative Roll

Exemption Deadline filing date

Assessment based on the physical condition as of this date

Grievance Filing Period:

June 1st to the 3rd Tuesday in June to contest your assessment

Grievance Day: 3rd Tuesday in June

Grievance filing deadline

Grievance Board convenes to hear grievance complaints

2015	Sated Level of Assessing:	10.22%
	Residential Assessment	
2015	Ratio:	10.22%
2015	State Equalization Rate:	10.22%

Duties/Functions of the Assessor's Office:

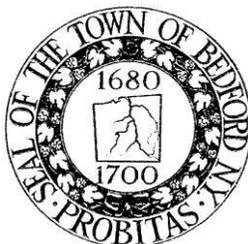
- To assess all real property in the Town of Bedford at the same uniform percentage of value, so as to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the tax burden.
- To maintain and update all ownership information regarding each parcel.
- To gather and maintain parcel data regarding the physical characteristics of the property such as building style, size, age, condition, improvements etc.
- To process all real property tax exemption applications according to NYS Real Property Tax Law.
- To make the assessment information, including challenge/grievance process, available to property owners in a fair, open, accessible and lawful manner.
- To be responsible for completing analysis and appraisals in Small Claims Assessment Review cases.
- To process tax parcel splits and mergers and to maintain and update Town tax maps.
- To collect, review, record, and value real property information from building permits, property sales, field review, and property inspections.
- To annually publish a Tentative and Final Assessment listing of all assessment data for all tax parcels.

General Assessment Information: All exemption applications must be filed with our office by June 1st. Exemptions such as Basic and Enhanced STAR, Veteran's, Volunteer/Ambulance, Aged, Clergy and Agricultural are available to those who qualify. Please contact us if you have any questions or require any general assessment or exemption information by the email, phone number or address listed below.



Steven Fraietta,
Building Inspector
James Genovese
Assistant Building Inspector
William O'Keefe
Code Enforcement Officer

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**



Alexandra J. Costello
Sr. Office Manager
Donna M. Berkowitz
Sr. Office Assistant
Michael Repp
Deputy Fire Inspector

2015 Annual Report

The Bedford Building Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Building Code as well as Bedford's Town Ordinances. The Building Department staff assists persons in all aspects of land use and the guides them through the building process. This includes working with individuals looking for information on specific properties, responding to code questions, handling sensitive enforcement issues, guidance through the approval process of the variance boards and commissions, and permit issuance. Our goal is to provide a positive experience for all who use our services while adhering to State and Town Codes.

In 2015 our department played a lead role in the adoption of Bedford's new Property Maintenance Code and will continue to monitor its implementation in 2016. This ordinance provides the Building Inspector the tools to move forward to repair a property if the owners do not act, and allows the Building Inspector to create a lien on the property if the maintenance costs and penalties go unpaid. The Building Department works to provide for the safety and general welfare of all people and property in the Town of Bedford. This year the Building Department used Chapter 42 of the Town Code to mandate that several properties deemed unsafe be repaired or demolished.

In addition, the Building Department has continued to scan all archived and active building permits. We have completed the scanning of over 21,000 building permits and will continue to scan records in 2016. Further, the implementation of computer tablets that interface with Building Department software has simplified the issuance of building inspection reports. These new upgrades have greatly improved work flow and office efficiency.

This department is also responsible for maintaining the Town House, Police Headquarters, Bedford Hills Community House, 21 Park Avenue and 425 Cherry Street. Our two full time employees work diligently to keep these buildings clean and safe for staff and visitors that use these facilities. The Building Department also maintains the Bedford Hills Train Station to allow Bedford Hills community groups to safely use the space under the auspices of the Recreation and Parks Department.

TOWN OF BEDFORD

The Building Department and the maintenance staff are always working to maintain and improve properties within the Town of Bedford. In 2015 the remaining asbestos was removed from the Bedford Hills Community House and the roof of 21 Park Avenue was replaced. In November the Building Department also took over the responsibility for major repairs to the Bedford Hills post office building under a new lease with the U.S. Postal Service that keeps the post office in Bedford Hills while providing significantly higher rent payments to the Town. In December maintenance staff began the alteration process to the basement of the Town House at 321 Bedford Road to accommodate police department staff during the renovation of the police department headquarters building which is anticipated to take 2 years.

In 2016 we will continue to provide outstanding service to our residents and the community and explore new and more efficient ways to serve them.

Thank you,

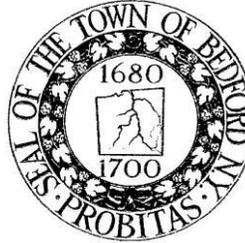
Steven J. Fraietta, Building Inspector

425 Cherry Street • Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Tel: (914) 666-4585 • Fax: (914) 666-2026
E-Mail: Buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov



Edward Ritter, *Town Comptroller*
Elisa Alaimo, *Sr. Bookkeeper*

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Alexandra O'Connor, *Sr. Account Clerk*
Mariann Harold, *Sr. Office Assistant*

2015 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Finance Office manages and safeguards most areas of finance for the residents of Bedford. I am very proud of the people in my office, Elisa Alaimo, Alexandra O'Connor and Missy Harold. They continually work with dedication towards the financial health and success of the town.

The Finance Office is responsible for accounts payable; accounts receivable; payroll and payroll taxation; financial management and financing of over seventy-six (76) capital projects to include bond issuance. Management of nine (9) municipal parking lots; maintenance of resident alarm permits for fire and burglary.

In 2015 the Finance Departments accomplishments included:

- A government efficiency plan was developed with the Town Supervisor in accordance with the New York State Property Freeze program. The town partnered with Westchester County, who acted as lead agency. This plan showed cost savings in excess of the one percent required for multiple years. The town was able to include the fire districts into the town's plan keeping them in compliance as well. The fire districts had substantial savings as well which were added into our plan. Submission of this plan ensures our residents are eligible for their property tax rebate checks.
- Due to strong financial management and strong planning tools utilized by the town, In July 2015 Standards and Poor's rating agency reaffirmed a AAA/Stable bond rating for the Town of Bedford.
- With our multi-year Capital Plan in place from 2014, and the expected movement of interest rates, bonds were issued during 2015. We were able to receive a very favorable rate of 2.36% over twenty (20) years. This will have long term savings for residents with low debt repayment.
- The results of the town's annual audit were favorable. The financials were reported as strong and management comments were favorable as well.
- The audit results were used to update the town's five (5) year financial projections for the town's major funds, the General Fund and the Highway Fund. This includes a four (4) year look back to actual data from audited financial statements current analysis and reasonable projections looking five (5) years into the future. The Capital Plan comes in quite handy for this task.

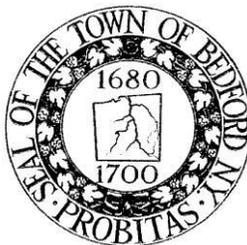
TOWN OF BEDFORD

- Commuter parking continues to be challenging. We added daily parking passes in commuter lot number 1. This replaced the limited numbered spaces and allowed for an additional forty-five spaces available after 10:00 am. These can be purchased at the train station meter. This has helped in the increased parking revenue of \$22,763.
- With the use of the capital plan and the five (5) year projection we were able to work with all departments throughout the town to create a responsible budget for 2015. Although quite lean, it provides all services our residents expect to receive, we brought the tax levy increase substantially under the tax cap.
- The financial management showed positive signs for 2015. Although there were substantial spending to resolve issues such as outstanding contract settlement, projections look to a positive result in the General fund. The Highway fund was budgeted to use \$200,000 of their fund balance to balance their 2015 budget. This fund looks to be on target for yearend as well. These numbers are preliminary projections. They are subject to a final review and an annual audit in early March.
- The Finance Department has had its challenges as well. Our financial software company, KVS was purchased by a company called Springbrook. The finance office worked diligently to convert to this software but were not successful. The product itself was not able to handle the needs of a New York municipality although they had guaranteed they could. When it was evident that Springbrook could not accomplish the conversion, the contract was terminated and all funds expended by the town were refunded.
- As we approached the final quarter of 2015, year-end work in the payroll department is quite difficult with various contract close-outs for the year. Missy Harold has been handling all of this with the professionalism and precision she demonstrates all year long.
- This year brought the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The town engaged a company, CPI-HR to assist us in learning the rules and creating a data base to be in compliance. This was a huge undertaking but the town is in full compliance. We will be issuing 1095-C forms to all employees. This is a new form but required for income tax filing. This is well under control by the Finance staff. We will be available to answer questions for our employees on the matter.
- This year several contracts were negotiated:
 1. Replacement copiers which resulted in far better machines at a substantial savings for the town.
 2. Complus ticket enforcement vendor. The contracted was held to no increase in cost and the increase of six (6) hand-held parking enforcement devices at no cost to the town at all
 3. Workers Compensation was projected to have a six percent increase. Proposals were sought from other companies as well as our current vendor. The results were a four percent decrease in rates.
- Department of Corrections are now being invoiced for their share of the filtration plant debt service and the operation and management costs. Funds are now being received on a consistent basis.



John J. Stockbridge
Town Historian

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
OFFICE OF THE TOWN HISTORIAN**



Christina Rae
Research Assistant

2015 Annual Report

The Historian's Office maintains archival materials for the Town. The office serves the public through the provision of genealogy and land records.

The office routinely receives inquiries from the public as to family or property histories, and offers the service of written reports upon request. Extensive property reports are completed on a fee basis. The office is open to the public for research Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

The office works closely with the Bedford Historical Society, the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds, Westchester County Historical Society, and the Katonah Historical Library on research inquiries related to local history. The Commission provides research and documentation for the Bedford Historic Building Preservation Commission. We also exchange research briefs with other towns in Westchester County to broaden the collective knowledge base of historical information.

In 2015, we worked closely with the Historic Building Preservation Commission providing extensive information regarding historic properties within the Town. The Historian's Office, working with an outside consultant hired by the Town, aided the Commission in the preparation of a survey of historic properties.

In November, the Historian, and members of the Historic Building Preservation Commission attended a conference held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions provided seminars in Preservation Law, historic property research, and project review.

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the Bedford Historical Society, and the Historian's Office looks forward to working with the Society on this significant anniversary.

John J. Stockbridge, Town Historian

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Tel: (914) 666-4745

Mail:Historiank@bedfordny.gov

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

Joan M. Gallagher
Director of Personnel



2015 Annual Report

The Personnel Department is responsible for maintaining and coordinating all aspects of human resources for the Town of Bedford. These facets include but are not limited to: employee benefits for all active and retired employees; civil service rules/laws; union communications and contract terms; mandatory safety training; safety programs/policies; and, staffing & organization.

In order to maintain services to its residents, the Town hired five individuals in 2015 to replace employees who previously retired/resigned: two police officers; two Sr. Office Assistants-Automated Systems (one shared between two departments); and one Community Service Worker.

The Town met with multiple insurance brokers to ensure affordable benefits within the specifications of the union contracts. Bedford's primary health insurance provider, the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) increased 4.2% in 2015 which was below the insurance industry average.

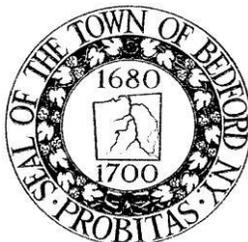
The Town of Bedford remains in compliance with mandatory training requirements. These training programs include but are not limited to OSHA safety training, defensive driver training and workplace violence prevention training. At the 2015 annual meeting the Association of Towns, the Town of Bedford was the recipient of an award from the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) in recognition of its attention to the safety of employees and residents.

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York
10507 Tel: (914) 864-0045 • Fax: (914) 864-0047
E-Mail: Jgallagher@bedfordny.gov



Jeffrey Osterman, *Director of Planning*
Drew Gamils, *Legal Intern*

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**



Anne Paglia, *Planning Secretary*

2015 Annual Report

Bedford Town Planning

Planning has been a part of the Town of Bedford's history since its inception in 1680 when 22 men from Stamford, after acquiring the "Hopp Ground," set out to plan for a meeting house, a grist mill on the Mianus River and a guying ground — and agreed no house lot would be less than three acres, but could be more. Town planning is a deeply rooted American tradition and is of critical concern today in Bedford as the Town faces the challenges of needed housing, prudent land use, and environmental protection.

Bedford's planning policies are implemented at three levels:

- The Town Board approves the laws establishing planning policy.
- The Planning Board, Wetlands Control Commission, Bedford Village Historic Review Commission, Katonah Historic Commission and Town Historic Building Preservation Commission assist in the formulation of and carrying out of policy.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances from the Zoning Ordinance.

To accomplish these goals, several tools are available to the Town:

- **The Town Comprehensive Plan**, a land use plan for the development of the community. This document is a statement of planning policies and goals of the Town to guide future growth and development.
- **The Zoning Ordinance**, a document adopted by the Town Board defining the various districts within the Town and the regulations concerning land uses and lot areas in these districts.
- **The Land Subdivision Regulations**, a part of the Code of the Town of Bedford dealing with procedures and standards under which new lots are created.
- **Specific Regulations concerning Wetlands, Steep Slopes and Ridgelines, Historic Districts and Historic Buildings.**

Town Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan was last adopted in April of 2003. With the assistance of Pace University Land Use Law Center, the Planning Department has begun the updating the Comprehensive Plan through a series of four public meetings. These meetings were held with senior citizens, the general public and owners of commercial properties in the town to discuss the following topics: Commercial Development and Town Centers, Open Spaces, Environment & Natural Resources, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Civic Spaces, Town Services and Utilities, Housing Needs, Historic Preservation and Community Appearance, and Sustainability. More meetings are scheduled for early 2016, after which the direction of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed by the Town Board and Planning Board.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town has been working with the County of Westchester to prepare a joint Hazard Mitigation Plan with the County and other municipalities. The purpose of the Plan is to identify and describe hazards to the community and prepare a mitigation strategy to minimize risks from these hazards.

Planning Board Activities in 2015

The Planning Board conducted 20 public meetings in 2015, during which the Board considered various permit applications and discussed land use policy issues. The Board also took 6 field trips to inspect 11 individual properties proposed for development.

A total of 45 formal resolutions were approved by the Board during the year for development projects of all types, including a new 12 unit affordable housing development, home occupations, cottages, accessory apartments, nursery schools, and tennis courts. Six applications for subdivisions were discussed. The Board also reviewed commercial use applications for a car dealership, car wash, and several food uses.

The Board discussed the following land use topics in 2015:

- Affordable housing
- Invasive plants legislation
- Commercial use and sign regulations in the hamlets
Residential uses in the Light Industrial district

The Planning Board recommended the approval of zoning revisions regarding permitted uses and signs in the hamlet businesses districts and housing uses in the Light Industrial district. These revisions were adopted by the Town Board during 2015.

Wetlands Control Commission Activities in 2015

The Wetlands Control Commission held 7 meetings in 2015, reviewing applications for activities within a wetland or wetland "buffer," lands within one hundred feet of a watercourse or wetland.

The Commission took five field trips to review these applications. During the year, the Commission approved 12 permits for these activities. In addition, 17 Administrative Permits were approved by the Wetlands Permit Official for minor activities.

Historic Building Preservation Commission Activities in 2015

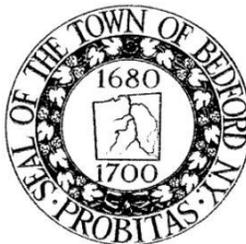
The Historic Building Preservation Commission held 10 public meetings and 21 work sessions in 2015 to review applications under Section 71-25 of the Town Code. The Commission took 10 field trips during the year to review 28 building applications. During the year, the Commission approved 26 Determinations for historic structures in the Town.

The Commission spent significant time reviewing the work of consultants engaged by the Town to update the list of historic properties regulated under the Historic Building Preservation Law.

Jeffrey Osterman, Director of Planning

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Melvin Padilla
Chief of Police



2015 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Police Department is a full time, full service police department with 40 sworn officers serving a community of approximately 18,000 residents over roughly 40 square miles. Uniformed officers of the Patrol Bureau provide services along approximately 161 miles of roadway within the town, as well as assistance along Interstate 684 and the Saw Mill River Parkway. The Bedford Police Department also maintains a full service investigative division with detectives that investigate all criminal cases that are reported annually.

2015 Statistics at a glance:

- 28,693 Calls for Service
- 187 Criminal Case Investigations
- 66 Arrests (31 DWI)
- Property Crime (\$259,921)
- 3801 Summonses Issued (20% increase overall from 2014 with 22% increase for aggressive driving violations)
- 8,496 Parking Summons Issued
- 127 Child Safety Seat Inspections performed
- 608 reported motor vehicle accidents (137 injuries, 1 fatality)

Calendar Year 2015 Highlights:

- The Town Board, approved a major renovation to the Police Headquarters facility which will address an aging facility and bring the capabilities of the department up to date (the police department moved into the current location in 1978). The majority of 2015 was used for planning and design as well as securing necessary approvals from the Department of Health and Environmental Protection agencies. Working with the Town Board and the architect on the project, we were able to come up with a renovation/addition design instead of a completely new structure projected to save approximately 50% from the original construction project estimates done in 2006. Construction of the temporary police headquarters in the basement of Town Hall is planned for early 2016 and the renovation of the existing facility is projected to start in the summer of 2016.

- New updated parking enforcement equipment using GPS technology was deployed for more efficient enforcement and for higher turnaround availability for patrons of local merchants.
- Commercial Vehicle scales purchased for increased commercial vehicle enforcement of overweight vehicles to address increased resident complaints and to protect roadway safety/infrastructure. The newly acquired equipment will be deployed in 2016 with the training assistance from the Department of Transportation and New York State Police.
- Two mobile message board trailers and one additional radar recorder were purchased for traffic data collection and to advise motorists of traffic conditions or special events affecting traffic patterns. The data collected from this equipment is used by both, the police department and highway department for efficient resource allocation regarding enforcement or traffic calming measures.
- Acquisition of a Polaris Ranger 6X6 Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV). The vehicle was purchased using donated funds and gives the department the ability to traverse terrain which would not normally be accessible by traditional emergency vehicles in the Police Department fleet. The Ranger will be utilized for various calls for service such as medical emergencies, search and rescue, as well as patrol, investigations and special events. This vehicle will improve overall operational capabilities of the Department, and can substantially reduce response time to get necessary equipment and treatment to an injured person. The unit will also be available for mutual aid to emergency services in neighboring jurisdictions.

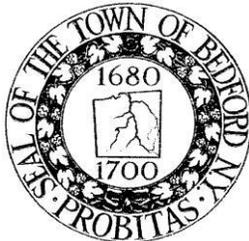
Melvin Padilla Jr.
Chief of Police
Bedford Police Department

307 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York
10507 Tel: (914) 241-3111 • Fax: (914) 241-0846
E-Mail: Bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov



Kevin Winn, *P.E.*
Commissioner
 Andrew Rosafort
Road Foreman

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Robert Mascianica
Deputy Commissioner
 William Nickson
Water Foreman

2015 Annual Report

The Bedford Department of Public Works (DPW) is pleased to serve Town residents and strives to provide excellent service in a cost effective manner. We are proud of our dedicated employees who deliver these services to you.

DPW consists of three divisions: Highway, Water, and Recycling. The Highway Division is responsible for maintaining 128 miles of roads and roads and 14 miles of sidewalk. Employees plow snow, repair roads, install and maintain drainage systems, and maintain commuter parking lots and bridges throughout Bedford. The Water Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Town's four water districts. The Recycling Division oversees the Adams Street Recycling Center, which is operated by an independent contractor. A wealth of recycling information can be found at <http://www.bedfordny.gov/departments/dpw/recycling/>.

In 2015 Bedford DPW's accomplishments included:

Highway and Recycling Divisions:

- Maintained road paving funds at \$1.1 million through a combination of operating and capital funds. DPW paved 8.5 miles of road and enhanced the level of service to our residents.
- Replaced deteriorated drainage systems on Sunrise Avenue and Stanwood Road.
- Continued the process of expanding our Bedford Hills Highway Yard by starting the relocation of our recycling center to allow the existing recycling center space to be used for highway operations. The Town obtained the use of New York State Department of Transportation property on Railroad Avenue and is constructing the new recycling center, which is planned to be completed in the first half of 2016. The new facility will offer the same services as the existing facility and will include additional parking. Much of the construction is being performed by Town employees, substantially reducing the cost of the project.
- Persevered during the cold and snowy winter of 2014-15, and provided excellent service during what seemed like never ending snow storms!

Water Division:

- Completed the first full year of operating the Consolidated District Water Filtration Plant as our primary supply, improving water quality to our customers in the hamlets of

Bedford Hills and Katonah and increasing operator proficiency at the plant. Our water employees have done an excellent job learning the new technology and caring for our new facility.

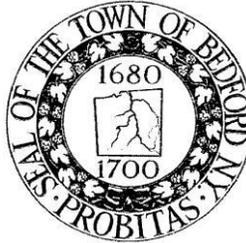
- Initiated a valve replacement project in the Consolidated District in order to improve the reliability of our distribution system.
- Replaced the water main on Douglas Drive, which had numerous breaks over the last few years.

It is anticipated that in 2016 we will begin construction on updating the Bedford Hills Highway Yard to improve winter operations, mechanical maintenance facilities, and truck washing equipment.



Bill Heidepriem
Superintendent

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT



Staff

Daryl Ann Sudlow, *Assistant Superintendent*
 James Whiting, *Recreation Supervisor*
 Kimberly O'Brien, *Recreation Supervisor*
 Suzanne Carpentier, *Senior Office Assistant*
 Susan DeFonce, *Office Assistant*
 Tom Megna, *Parks Foreman*
 Mark Moran, *Assistant Parks Foreman*
 Richard Pochintesta, *Automotive Mechanic*
 John Goodman, *Parks Maintenance*
 Pete Welch, *Parks Maintenance*
 Matt Halpin, *Parks Maintenance*
 Matt Van Dorn, *Parks Maintenance*

2015 Annual Report

Recreation and Parks Department Highlights

The goal of the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Department is to offer a variety of recreation programs and services along with providing well maintained safe park facilities for the residents of the Town of Bedford to participate in and enjoy. In addition to the variety of programs offered the R&P Department has a number of partnerships with community organizations and businesses that further enhance recreation and leisure services and opportunities within the Town.

The Recreation and Parks Department has a full time staff of 4 full time Recreation staff, 2 administrative support staff and 7 full time parks staff. The Recreation and Parks Department employees over 250 seasonal part time/ full time staff to support the programs offered and to assist with the maintenance of our park facilities, historical properties, cemeteries and other outside properties. Most of these seasonal employees are local high school and college students.

Recreation & Parks Highlights 2015

Spring - Summer – Fall - Winter Activities

New – Starting with our Spring & Summer activity registration - Online program registration was offered for most of the Recreation program offerings.

The annual Spring Egg Hunt featuring over 8,000 colorful candy filed plastic eggs and the “Spring Bunny” was held in late March in partnership with the John Jay Homestead with over 300 participants. The 2015 Egg Hunt was held at the FLHS turf field due to soft/wet ground conditions at the JJHS.

New – In early April the Bedford Dog Owner Group (BDOG) and the Recreation & Parks Department co-sponsored a free program – “*Dog Park Etiquette*” featuring Rick Sanders of Sanders K-9 Training for Canine Commons dog park permit holders and interested Town residents.

The annual Fishing Derby, held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park in early May, had over 75 participants. The Sportsman’s Club of Northern Westchester was on hand again this year to assist our young anglers in need! Once again a sponsorship/donation of \$400.00 received from the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association was used for prizes.

The Learn to Ride Bike & Car Seat Inspection Program was offered in May at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park. The 2015 event was the largest turnout to date and was a co-sponsored event with the Bedford Police Department.

New – Paint Escape, a one night special event offering was held in mid-June at the Bedford Hills Community House. This event was so well received that a second event was held in late September with over 40 adult “artists” attending!

FREE - Summer Concert at Katonah Memorial – Held in mid-July – This summer time tradition was sponsored by the Katonah Memorial Park Association in cooperation with the Recreation and Parks Department and featured “The Kevin Myers Band”. The concert was well attended by many Town residents and their guests.

FREE -Annual C&M Movie Night” was held at the Bedford Village Memorial Park in late July and was sponsored by the Chowder and Marching Club. The film “Paddington” was shown to the delight of the crowd on a beautiful summer evening in the park.

Swim and Dive Team Programs at the Bedford Hills, Katonah and Bedford Village pool facilities. All three teams enjoyed successful fun filled seasons. There were over 250 youngsters ages 6-18 registered in the program in 2015. The Katonah S&D team hosted their annual invitational in July.

Pool & Library Partnerships - Pool side Story Time at the Pools – Was offered at each pool facility this past summer in cooperation with our three wonderful libraries. In addition the Bedford Village

and Bedford Hills Libraries offered a Book Cart – “Take a Book / Swap a book” carts for the enjoyment, making it easier to “dive” into a good book and read in the summer!

Sizzling Sundays Family Fun Nights – were once again hosted at each pool facility and featured a DJ, games and special food menus from our pool concessionaire

Summer Camps in Bedford saw another summer of fun and great weather. Bedford hosts three main camps held in the parks, Bedford Hills, Katonah and Bedford Village along with two Tiny Tot Camps and one Teen Get A Way Travel Camp. In 2015 there were 647 children ages 3 ½ through 13 registered in the various camp programs. In addition to the regular camp offering there were a variety of sports clinics and specialty camps offered after the camp season was over in early August.

Bedford PBA hosted their annual free lunch and ice cream for the Bedford Day Camps at Bedford Village Memorial Park as part of the annual BH, KT and BV Camp Carnival.

New – A Community Family Camp Out – originally scheduled for September 12th at Katonah Memorial Park and had to be re scheduled for the following weekend due to weather issues. Over 45 families registered for this first time event. A number of community organizations assisted to make this event a great success. Special Thanks to the Katonah Memorial Park Association, MPA, Boy Scouts Troop #1 Katonah, Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association, Katonah Library, Katonah Fire Department, Bedford Hills Lions Club, Westchester Amateur Astronomers Club and KVIS – Katonah Inspired

Ladies Bingo was another full house of fun and excitement at the Bedford Hills Community House in mid-October. Over 45 donated prizes from local Town of Bedford businesses were donated for this annual event with over 75 ladies in attendance.

Bedford Community Theatre (BCT) fall production of the *Wizard of Oz* performed to sold out crowds during the 8 shows that covered two weekends in November at the BHCH. The show had a cast of over 45 talented performers with ages ranging from 6 to 60+.

The 11th Annual Turkey Trot Road Race was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving with the finish line at the Bedford Village Memorial Park. The all-volunteer Turkey Trot Committee was pleased to report that the race registration was sold out (as it is every year) at the capacity of 475 runners.

Special Note: In June the Bedford Turkey Trot Committee received the *2015 Voluntary Service Award* for an organization from the Westchester Recreation and Parks Society.

Youth and Adult Tennis lessons continue to be sponsored in cooperation with the Saw Mill Club at each park facility this past Spring, Summer and Fall tennis seasons. The Saw Mill Club also partners with the Town in offering late fall and winter platform tennis lessons at the Katonah and Bedford Village courts.

Miscellaneous Highlights 2015

In early 2015 the Supervisors office requested assistance in coordinating a new senior outreach program called “Call & Check”. This new program now has approximately 170 Town of Bedford residents who have signed up to be contacted (through the Recreation & Parks

Department) in advance and/or after a weather related event or Town wide emergency to make sure they are safe and have the necessary provisions to stay in their home.

A Bedford Hills Memorial Park Master Plan project was completed in 2015. The project was started in early 2015 and was completed in June. DeSantis Consulting worked with the Recreation and Parks Department, Advisory Committee, a variety of stakeholder groups and park neighbors by hosting a number of meetings and informational sessions. Observations and recommendations made as part of the process will serve as a guide to future park improvements at the park.

Arbor Day Events – Sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) marked the 15th year of recognition as a Tree City USA was acknowledged with an Arbor Day Tree planting celebration in the median of Dwight Lane in Bedford Hills. A beautiful red sunset “swamp” maple selected by the TAB was planted by the Parks staff.

The Bedford Village Memorial Park tennis courts (4) were renovated in August of 2015. A new cushioned surface was installed over the existing courts and the fencing was replaced around the courts. The project was completed early and within budget.

In early May a new modular Parks storage building was delivered and installed at the Katonah Memorial Park. This new structure provides much needed storage space at the Park for the Parks staff and provides greater efficiencies in performing the duties required in maintaining the park.

In mid-May the large center fountain at Lake Marie had new LED lighting added thanks to a donation of \$3,000.00 by the Lakeside at Bedford Homeowner Group. The new lighting added to the beauty of the lake and the three fountains.

The Cemetery Committee – An all voluntary group continued to work tirelessly in 2015 on cemetery restoration projects in various cemeteries throughout the Town. The committee coordinated the restoration of many headstones throughout the year with contractors who specialize in this type of restorations. The committee works closely with the Recreation & Parks Department and Town Clerk’s Office

Oliver’s Restaurant in Katonah sponsored a **FREE** St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon for over 95 Bedford senior adults at the BHCH in March.

The Bedford Meals on Wheels program – utilizing an all-volunteer delivery staff delivered 5,879 meals an average of 490 per month to Town of Bedford residents in need.

The Canine Commons Dog Park – Through the Town Clerk’s Office, 290 dog park permits were sold in 2015. This is an increase of 37 permits sold surpassing the record of 253 permits sold in 2014. This is the highest number of permits issued since the permit system was implemented in 2008!

This past Fall, the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works worked with a new community organization, BH LIVE on improvements as recommended in the Bedford Hills Hamlet in advance of a Harvest Dinner held in late September. Parks Department staff performed landscaping tasks and planted areas as designated for fall plantings including the Post Office.

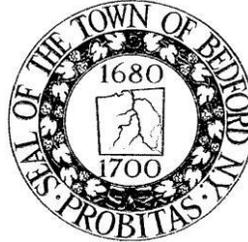
TOWN OF BEDFORD

In November the Tree Advisory Board, working with BDOG, agreed to fund the planting of three trees in the large enclosure at the Canine Commons Dog Park. The planting was performed by the Parks Department staff in December.

In December the Recreation Department was asked to work with the Bedford Hills Historical Museum in booking the Bedford Hills Train Station for community use when the space is not being utilized by the BHHM. The Recreation Departments roll of "Station Master" will continue into 2016.

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
RECEIVER OF TAXES**

Amy M. Pectol
Receiver of Taxes



2015 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Tax Receiver's office is responsible for collecting taxes for the County, Town, Special Districts, and School Districts for all properties that are within the Town of Bedford. There are currently 6294 parcels of land in the Town, 5948 of which are taxable.

The Tax Receiver's office collects for three different school districts that have property within the Town of Bedford. These districts are Bedford Central, Katonah-Lewisboro and Byram Hills. The school tax year runs from July 1 to June 30, with due dates of September 30 for the first half payment and January 31 for the second half payment. In 2015, this office collected \$75,474,323 in base taxes and \$306,864 in penalties.

In addition to school taxes, this office collects taxes for the County, Town, Highway, Special Districts and three fire districts. These taxes are more commonly known as property taxes. This tax year covers a calendar year and is collected in April of each year. During 2015, the Tax Receiver's office collected \$46,819,503 in taxes and \$63,560 in penalties.

It has been a goal since I became Tax Receiver in 2006 to make the tax as automated and accessible as possible for everyone. In 2014, we were able to expand this type of service to include tax history and the emailing of bills and receipts to our residents. Our online payment option, which has been available since 2008, continues to grow in popularity. This payment option allows taxpayers to pay taxes from home up until 11:59pm on the due date. I will continue to look for new options to make tax information more conveniently available to the current and future residents of the Town of Bedford.

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York
10507 Tel: (914) 666-4475 • Fax: (914) 864- 0060
E-Mail: Receiver@bedfordny.gov

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

❖ **Annual Report – Year Ended December 31, 2014**

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Annual-Report-2014.pdf>

❖ **Financial Statements and Supplementary Information**

2014 Audit Report

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2014FinStateIndependentAudit.pdf>

❖ **Five Year Financial Projection**

Major Fund Summary

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Financial-Report-2.pdf>

General Fund

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Financial-Report-3.pdf>

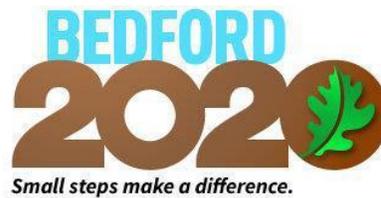
Highway Fund

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Financial-Report-4.pdf>

*** Please Note that 2014 figures are unaudited results.*

❖ **Bedford 2020 Progress Report – October 2015**

<http://bedford2020.org/assets/B2020-progressReport-Oct2015.pdf>



ANNUAL REPORT



Bedford Hills Free Library
 26 Main Street
 Bedford Hills, NY 10507
<http://www.bedfordhillsfreelibrary.org/>

Katonah Village Library
 26 Bedford Road
 Katonah, NY 10536
<http://www.katonahlibrary.org/>



Bedford Free Library
 32 Village Green
 Bedford, NY 10506
<http://bedfordfreelibrary.org>



TOWN OF BEDFORD



The Cross River Reservoir, located east of Katonah, is one of several reservoirs that feed water to New York City. The Reservoir is open to fishing and boating, but only row boats are allowed. Access is provided by the New York City DEP through a free NYC DEP watershed access permit. Boats are allowed on these waters from April 1st to December 1st of each year. The Cross River Reservoir is home to Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, carp, Panfish. Walkers, joggers and bikers can also enjoy the Cross River Reservoir on a one-quarter mile dirt path located atop of the Cross River Dam between Reservoir Road and Mount Holly Road in Bedford.

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site located in Katonah, NY. At the John Jay Homestead you can tour John Jay's Bedford Home, hike the property trails, or enjoy the 7 beautiful gardens. For more information visit <http://johnjayhomestead.org/>.



Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts is a 1930s Renaissance Revival estate. Today the property is known as a destination for live music, educational programs, and beautiful gardens and grounds. Caramoor is located at 149 Girdle Ridge Road, Katonah, NY. For more information visit <http://www.caramoor.org/>.



Bedford Town House
321 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507