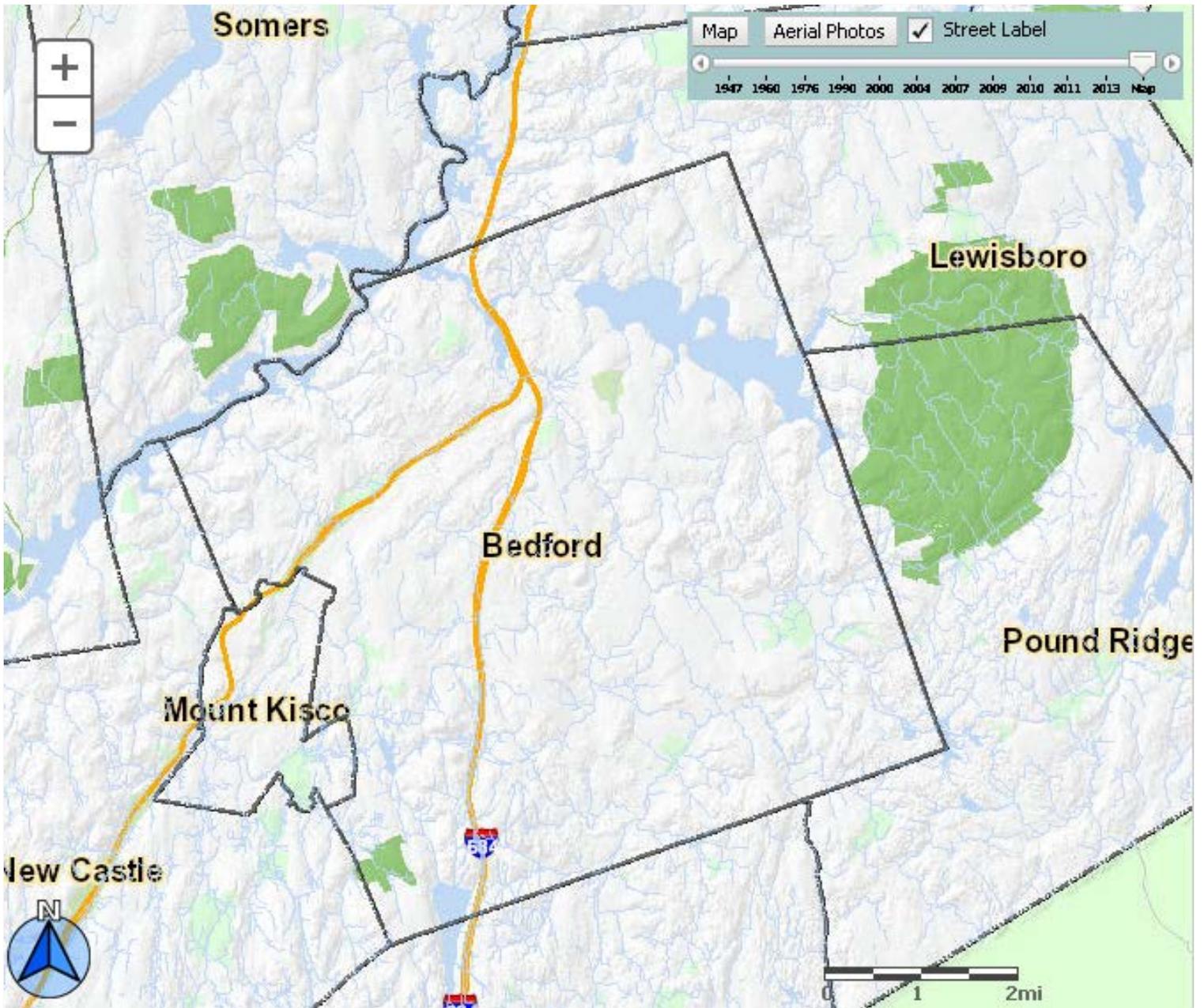


The Town of **BEDFORD** *New York*



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



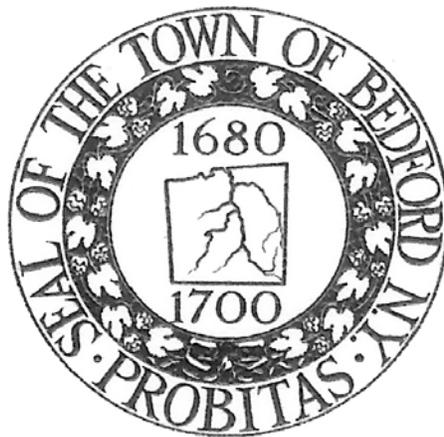
Hydrology Map courtesy of Westchester County Geographic Information Systems.

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, 2014

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
321 BEDFORD ROAD
BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507**

[HTTP://WWW.BEDFORDNY.GOV](http://www.bedfordny.gov)

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TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN BOARD 2014



Chris Burdick
Supervisor



Peter Chryssos
Board Member



Francis Corcoran
Board Member



David Gabrielson
Deputy Supervisor
Board Member



Mary Beth Kass
Board Member

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 board elect that consists of four Board Members and a 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 the 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 for the time, location and agenda of meetings.

We welcome our newest member of the Town Board, Don Scott, who joined the Board on January 1, 2015:



TOWN CLERK



Lisbeth (Boo) Fumagalli
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 • 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 JUDGES



Erik P. Jacobsen
Justice



David A. Menken
Justice

The Town of Bedford has two Town Judges, 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 Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

**County Executive
Robert Astorino**

ceo@westchestergov.com
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-2127

**County Legislator
Peter Harckham (Dist. 2)**

harckham@westchesterlegislators.com
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-2810

**County Clerk
Timothy C. Idoni**

cclerk@westchestergov.com
110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-3080

NEW YORK STATE

State Senator

George S. Latimer (D, Dist. 37)

latimer@nysenate.gov
222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300
Port Chester, NY 10573
(914) 934-5250

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

UNITED STATES

Senator

Charles E. Schumer (D-IN-L)

senator@schumer.senate.gov
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017
(212) 486-4430

Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)

<http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/>
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
(212) 688-6262

Representative

Sean P. Maloney (D, Dist. 18)

<https://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact/email-me>
123 Grand Street,
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Bedford depends heavily 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

Blue Mountain Development Corporation
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
Historic District Review Commission
Wetlands Control Commission

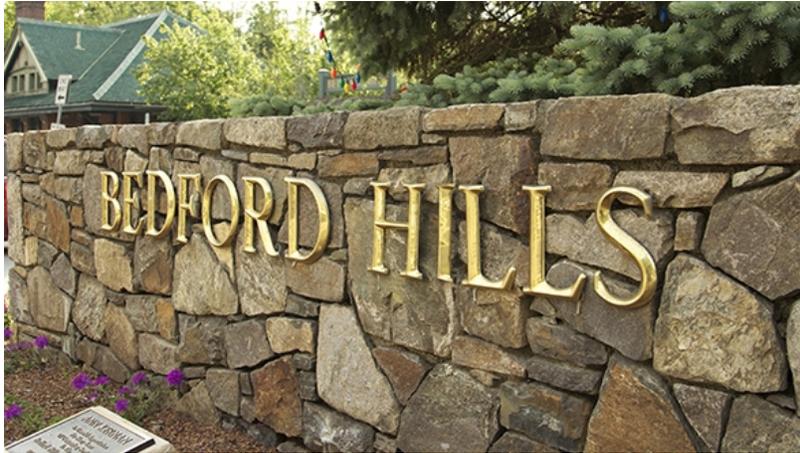
COMMITTEES

Bedford Town Housing Committee
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Bedford Energy Advisory Panel
Open Space Acquisition Committee
Bedford Recycling Committee

Contact Information

Emergency (Ambulance, Fire & Police) – 911

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		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
Supervisor	Chris Burdick	supervisor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6530
Town Clerk	Lisbeth Fumagalli	townclerk@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4534
Town Court		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		wetlands@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5140
Zoning Board (ZBA)		zoning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4585





TOWN OF BEDFORD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

Chris Burdick
Supervisor

David Gabrielson
Deputy Supervisor

Bea Rhodes
Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor



TOWN BOARD
Francis Corcoran
Mary Beth Kass
Don B. Scott

2014 Town of Bedford Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the Town enjoyed a successful and productive year. There are many good things happening in Bedford. My colleagues on the Town Board and I are honored to play a part, but we know it wouldn't be possible without the Town employees and the many citizens who volunteer their time and talents 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 organization. The extraordinarily high level of civic engagement is truly 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, Councilman and Deputy Supervisor David Gabrielson, Councilman Francis Corcoran, Councilwoman Mary Beth Kass and newly elected Councilman Don Scott. Thanks also to former Councilman Peter Chryssos for his many years of dedicated service to the Town.

We hope that you will find this Annual Report a useful resource to provide the 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. I also wish to thank our Planning Department Intern, Marie Figueiredo for her considerable work in helping to prepare this report.

Finances

The Town is financially strong with a responsible, tax cap compliant budget, appropriate fund balances, prudent debt level and reaffirmation of our triple AAA credit rating (fewer than three percent of New York municipalities enjoy that coveted rating). Preliminary results show that 2014 finished well with revenues somewhat above budget and expenses somewhat below. We also increased General Fund balances while tapping Highway Fund balances less than budgeted. In December the Town Board adopted the 2015 budget which reflects a 1.67% tax levy increase, comfortably below the 2.25% tax cap. For the average homeowner with an assessed value of \$65,000 this represents an annual increase of \$23.81 for the combined General Fund and Highway Fund. Our thanks go to Comptroller Ed Ritter for his diligence and sound financial management. In addition to Ed's Annual Report, he also includes the 2013 Audit, the unaudited results for 2014 and financial projections for the period 2015 through 2020 in the form prescribed by the New York State Office of the Comptroller.

Last May the Town Board adopted a new Capital Plan covering the period 2014 through 2022. The Plan includes more funds for road paving which, combined with operating funds, was \$1.1 million last year, up from \$850,000. It also includes investments in energy retrofits to make our Police Station, the office building at 425 Cherry Street and the Bedford Hills Community House more energy efficient. These are projects recommended through energy audits – thanks to the work of the Bedford Energy Advisory Panel, Mark Thielking and Councilwoman Mary Beth Kass. These projects are advisable to help us meet our Bedford 2020 goals for carbon emission reductions and because the energy savings will pay for their cost. Following significant IT upgrades five years ago, the Capital Plan both provides for replacement of aging servers and computer equipment and new software applications to enable residents and others doing business with the Town to conduct their business online. As part of our emergency planning, the Capital Plan provided funds for a generator for the Town's office building at 425 Cherry Street which was installed last fall. At the same time as making important infrastructure investments, the Capital Plan removed two costly projects replacing them with more modest approaches. It removed the acquisition of land and the building of a new highway facility estimated to cost between \$13 and \$15 million dollars and replaced it with an upgrade of the highway garage facility on Adams Street estimated to cost \$2.5 million. It also removed a new police building estimated to cost \$10 million and replaced it with capital upgrades to the existing building, including a new roof with insulation and HVAC system, estimated to cost \$250,000 (as of this writing, the Town Board is considering other renovations to the police station). The total Capital Plan for 2014 through 2022 is \$14,846,300. It replaced the previous Capital Plan which totaled \$36,255,784.

As Comptroller Ritter's report explains, the most recent financial projections show a brighter outlook over the next five years owing principally to moderating increases in benefit costs, improved non-tax revenues and reduced debt service. Despite the brighter picture, the Town Board is ever mindful of the need to be highly cautious given the possibility of sudden shifts in the economic and financial landscape.

Police Services

The Town Board was delighted to promote Melvin Padilla, formerly Lieutenant, to the position of provisional Chief of Police following the retirement of Bill Hayes. He has been off to a great start with impressive experience and tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Our full time, highly professional Police Department serves the Town 24/7 and 365 days a year with patrols covering each Hamlet at all times. The Town Board is committed to maintaining that high level of service – the 2015 budget provides for 40 sworn officers. Former Chief Bill Hayes, followed by his successor Mel Padilla, have been playing an important role in enhancing traffic safety with strong commitment and participation in the Traffic Safety Working Group. The latter's report reflects the hard work and dedicated service of his department. I wish to thank former Chief Bill Hayes for his dedicated service in having run the department - one of the most respected police organizations in the State.

Public Works

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for installing and maintaining the Town's roadways, sidewalks, and drainage systems, as well as operating and

maintaining the four water districts and managing the Recycling Center. We are proud of our dedicated employees who deliver these services to you.

DPW completed the first full year of operation of the water filtration plant, bringing pristine water to the hamlets of Bedford Hills and Katonah. The Town Board approved a plan and a bond issuance to bring Roosevelt Drive residents into the Consolidated Water district without burdening the other rate payers. Commissioner Winn began the process, under the Capital Plan, 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 new facility will offer the same services as the existing facility and will include additional parking. The construction is being performed by Town employees, substantially reducing the cost of the project. DPW has been carefully managing their budget, while providing a high level of service to the community.

In his report DPW Commissioner Kevin Winn describes the accomplishments of the Department of Public Works in 2014 and plans for the coming year.

Recreation and Parks

The Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for maintaining each of the hamlet parks. In his report Superintendent Bill Heidepriem recaps several improvements to each park as well as expansion of program and event offerings. The Town Board is proud of our dedicated Recreation and Parks Department staff, working hard to keep our parks and athletic fields attractive, clean and safe for your enjoyment. It remains our goal to provide high quality recreational services and programs and well maintained park facilities for the residents of Bedford and their guests.

Planning, Historic Preservation and Environment

Bedford's Planning Department and Planning Board are among the most respected in the state, with careful and judicious consideration of development projects to protect the Town's semi-rural character, while also allowing owners the right to the use and enjoyment of their properties. In 2014 the Historic Building Preservation Commission commenced work with a highly respected historic preservation consultant to systematically identify and catalogue historically significant properties – part of a review process requested by the Town Board. The Town Board this past summer endorsed the exciting and promising efforts of Friends of the Bedford Playhouse to preserve the historic theater.

I am proud of the Town's continuing leadership role in the County and the State to reduce our carbon footprint with energy efficiency. The Town Board strongly supports Bedford 2020, recognized statewide (in fact nationwide) for its trail blazing work with Energize (residential energy efficiency), single stream recycling, energy efficient building codes, solar energy promotion and in many other areas. As a director of the Energy Improvement Corporation, I represent Bedford to encourage and help finance efficiency measures for residents and businesses. Bedford's environmental leadership extends to protecting our fragile wetlands and your Town Board adopted amendments in 2014 to the Town's wetlands law both to streamline the application process while also strengthening the law with respect to discouraging clear-cutting wetlands vegetation.

Emergency Preparedness

Bedford is actively participating in the FEMA funded and County led effort to update each municipality's hazard mitigation plan - or emergency plan. As part of the effort, we are working on updating the Town's Emergency Management Plan, including the "Call & Check" system for contacting individuals on life support or otherwise at special risk. I am grateful to NYSEG for granting my request that Bedford be included in NYSEG's storm damage assessment pilot program, an on-line mapping website. It would allow people in the field with "boots on the ground" – such as highway, police, firefighters – to directly view, report or call into central dispatch, areas of power outages, roads blocked, downed lines or poles and so forth. With this data entered and reported into the shared website, we will provide NYSEG near real time information. Most important, the response time to identify and resolve damage will be significantly improved, resulting in better public safety and service. The estimated recovery period from a storm like Hurricane Sandy may be reduced as much as two days. The Town also participates in a similar web-based reporting system which Con Edison has developed. The first step in recovery is damage assessment and making conditions safe. During Hurricane Sandy, the power was out for the Town's offices at 425 Cherry Street. That meant that even if our staff working in those offices could get into work, they'd have no power and couldn't work. That meant that we had fewer Town employees available to help the community. The Town Board approved in its Capital Plan the purchase of a generator for the building (we already have back up generation for 321 Bedford Road, the Police Station and the Highway Department facilities on Adams Street) which was installed this past fall.

Addressing Wastewater Issues

The Town is working with our County Legislator, Pete Harckham, as well as with NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to obtain funds to deal with septic failures and repairs. The County is a repository of some \$10 million in DEP funds earmarked for the Town of Bedford, which would be the source of the funds. Town Planner Jeff Osterman and DPW Commissioner Kevin Winn have developed two proposals to be made to the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee and Westchester County for accessing some of those funds: (1) a proposal to fund a Septic Failure Repair Fund of as much as \$3.5 million; and (2) a proposal for a Feasibility Study for Enhanced Treatment Units which would cost approximately \$50,000. The Town Board supports the proposals and Messrs. Osterman, Winn and I met last month with Pete Harckham, DEP Deputy Commissioner David Wame and members of his staff. They responded quite positively to the proposals, and I am cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to proceed.

Traffic Safety Initiatives

Recognizing an endemic problem throughout Town of speeding, motorists disregarding crosswalks and stopped school buses and other dangers to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, the Town Board in June appointed a Traffic Safety Work Group (TSWG), whose charge is to promote and encourage street and highway traffic safety, formulate safety programs and coordinate efforts, study traffic conditions, conduct meetings with the public and invite comment and make recommendations to the Town Board. The TSWG is comprised of the Chief of Police Mel Padilla, Director of Planning Jeff Osterman, Commissioner of Public Works Kevin Winn, Councilwoman Mary Beth Kass, four residents, Michelle Brooks, Wendy Camerik, Andy Guich and Drew Marchiano and me, as Supervisor. Following public meetings in each hamlet, the Town Board, on recommendation of the

TSWG, commissioned a traffic study for issues on Cherry Street which led to certain measures being implemented. Considering the Town-wide speeding issues, the Town Board also approved recommendations from the TSWG and the Police Chief to acquire additional speed indicator and variable message boards and an additional RADAR Traffic Data Recorder. As part of a systematic and comprehensive approach to traffic safety, the Police Department has been testing its newly acquired equipment for deployment in various locations in Town. The equipment enhances the Police Department's ability to measure the effectiveness of the traffic safety measures.

The TSWG is continuing to review comments and requests from the community with a view to identifying problems posing the greatest hazards and attempting to develop measures to address them. The TSWG will be meeting regularly throughout the year.

Affordable Housing

The Town Board is strongly supportive of increasing the number of affordable housing units in Bedford. As a regular attendee of the meetings of the Town's Blue Mountain Housing Development Corporation, which has been devoted to promoting and providing affordable housing since the early 1980s, I have become thoroughly familiar with the challenges. The Town Board has entered into a letter of understanding with Blue Mountain in which the Town would convey to Blue Mountain building lots owned by the Town for the development of affordable housing. We have discussed at least ten sites in Town as small, potential affordable sites. The Town was one of the first to adopt the County's model affordable housing ordinance. We are also constantly seeking opportunities and working with developers to obtain the maximum number of units which the ordinance prescribes. There are promising possibilities in each of the Town's hamlets. We also have reached out to lenders who have foreclosed on houses which now stand vacant – "zombie" properties – in the hope of acquiring and converting them to affordable housing.

Bedford Hills Post Office

The Town Board is committed to keeping the Bedford Hills Post Office and to that end, I have been negotiating for nearly a year with CBRE, the leasing agent for the U.S. Postal Service on a renewal of the existing lease which expires on October 31. As of this writing it appears as though those efforts have borne fruit. We have reached an agreement in principle and the Town Board has authorized me to enter into a Letter of Intent to keep the post office in Bedford Hills and provide an increase in lease income to the Town.

My colleagues and I on the Town Board are working hard on a daily basis to keep Bedford the wonderful place it is. I ask you to please send me an e-mail at supervisor@bedfordny.gov should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.


Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor

TOWN OF BEDFORD OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Lisbeth Fumagalli
Town Clerk



Nina Kellogg
Deputy Town Clerk

2014 ANNUAL REPORT – TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

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 revamped 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 maintain over 200 years of birth, death and marriage records and 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 2014, our revenues for these licenses and permits increased by \$34,772.00 or 31%. This large increase was due to several areas; Filming, we took in \$15,000. versus 0 in 2013, Senior refuse coupons increased by \$6,325 or 62%, this was due to regulated collection of tickets; resident dog park permits increased by \$2800 or 29% due to more aggressive permit patrol. In addition, our EZ Pass sales increased by 67%.

Marriage and Death certificates remained remarkably consistent from 2013 to 2014 as did dog licensing.

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

Our main goal for 2015 will be focusing on records management. We will be installing new scanning equipment and software that combines document imaging with content management and business process management tools. We will be able to both manage and process information more efficiently and effectively.

The philosophy in the Clerks 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.



Town Justices
Erik P. Jacobsen
David A. Menken

TOWN OF BEDFORD
JUSTICE COURT
321 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Tel. (914) 666-6965

Court Clerks
Nancy D. Artese
Diane Georgio

2014 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Justice Court, administered by Justices Erik Jacobsen and David Menken, continued in 2014 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 2014 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 Dept. of Parking Enforcement (patrolling seven municipal lots), (v) the Westchester County Police Department (patrolling the Saw Mill Parkway), (vi) the New York State Police Department (patrolling 1-684), (vii) the MTA Police Department (with two train stations serving the Town), and (viii) the Dept. of Environmental Protection (patrolling the reservoirs and the dams).

The Court hears criminal cases on a weekly basis, every Thursday evening, and holds traffic court twice a month. In 2014, the Court's busy calendar included approximately 300 criminal cases and

8800 vehicle and traffic cases. It is common to hear 30 to 40 criminal cases, and occasionally 60 cases on a Thursday evening.

In 2014, the Court made several changes to its operational and administrative policies and procedures. For example, the Court made a special effort to ensure that Defendants charged with serious crimes were afforded the opportunity to be represented by counsel at their arraignments, even on off hours, and it 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 continues to be short-staffed. Although the Court has been given additional requirements and paperwork by the State (for example, new surcharges for credit card transactions which were imposed by the State), it recently lost two full-time employees who, because of budget constraints, will not soon be replaced. Judges Jacobsen and Menken continue to discuss staffing issues with the Town Board.

The Court has not increased its budget for 2015 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 2015 to improving the Court while balancing the needs of the citizens, the budget and the staff.



ERIK P. JACOBSEN



DAVID A. MENKEN





Harold Girdlestone
Sole Assessor
hgirdlestone@bedfordny.gov

TOWN OF BEDFORD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



Tatiana Guaman
Assessment/Tax Aide
tguaman@bedfordny.gov

2014 Annual Report

Summary: The Assessor's Office published the 2014 Tentative Assessment Roll on June 2, 2014 with a stated uniform percent of value of 10.36%. The 2014 assessment is based on the physical inventory of the property as of June 1, 2014 and the market value as of July 1, 2013. There were approximately 190 grievance applications filed with the Board of Assessment Review. The Final Assessment Roll was filed on September 15, 2014. Approximately 100 Small Claims Assessment Review petitions and 46 tax certiorari petitions were filed contesting the petitioners' final 2014 assessments.

In 2014, the Assessor's Office completed the scanning of all of its property records cards, including older historic cards. It is our intention to provide access to the scanned cards both internally and externally. As part of the capital improvement project, the Assessor's Office has begun the process of automating all property data in the Assessor's Office. Of approximately 6,500 tax parcels in Bedford, we have thus far completed data entry related to approximately 500 tax parcels, including sales data.

The Assessor's Office issued a Request for Proposal in late 2014 to provide the maintenance and update of our tax maps. We expect to engage a firm in early 2015 to handle such tax map work.

2014 Assessment Roll Information:

Valuation Date: July 1 st of Prior year	Assessment based on Market Value as of this date
Taxable Status Date: June 1 st	Publishing of the Tentative Roll Exemption Deadline filing date
Grievance Filing Period:	Assessment based on the physical condition as of this date
Grievance Day: 3 rd Tuesday in June	June 1 st to the 3 rd Tuesday in June to contest your assessment Grievance filing deadline Grievance Board convenes to hear grievance complaints
2014 Stated Level of Assessing:	10.36%
2014 Residential Assessment Ratio:	10.36%
2014 State Equalization Rate:	10.36%

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 in the footer below.



TOWN OF BEDFORD BUILDING DEPARTMENT

425 Cherry Street • Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Tel: (914) 666-4585 • Fax: (914) 666-2026

E-Mail: buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov

www.bedfordny.gov

Steven Fraietta, Building Inspector
James Genovese, Assistant Building Inspector
William O'Keefe, Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Repp, Jr., Deputy Fire Inspector

Alexandra J. Costello, Sr. Office Assistant (Office Manager)

Donna M. Berkowitz, Sr. Office Assistant

2014 Annual Report

The Bedford Building Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Building Code and Bedford's Town Ordinances. Our goal is to make the permitting process as easy as possible while complying with the requirements of the State and Town codes. I am pleased to report an 11% increase in building permit activity during 2014. The Building Department staff is well trained in assisting any person who wants to navigate the building permit process or has code questions, and individuals looking for information on specific properties.

Our department is currently in the process of scanning all archived and active building permits. It is a major undertaking. There are over 25,000 issued building permits, 14,000 of which have already been scanned. Scanning will continue through 2015. The benefits to the daily work flow and efficiency are already evident. Once all of the scanning is completed, the Building Department will be able to better serve the public and assist other departments.

In January of 2014, a new service counter was installed. This counter provides security for our staff and separation from the public, enabling staff to do its work more effectively. The result has been better service to the public and a more organized work environment. In December, Building Inspectors were issued new tablets for field inspections. This initiative will help reduce paper and expedite communication about specific projects once it is totally implemented.

This department is also responsible for maintaining the Town House, Police Headquarters, Bedford Hills Community House, 21 Park Avenue and 425 Cherry Street. We have two full-time employees that work very hard to keep these buildings clean and safe for staff and visitors that use these facilities.

Two new generators were installed in 2014. One replaced an aging generator located at Police Headquarters. The second was a new installation at 425 Cherry Street. 425 Cherry Street serves as the Town's Annex Building and will now be fully operational if there is a power interruption. It will also be available for use as a backup warming or cooling center if needed.

In 2015, we will continue to provide the best possible service to our residents and look for better ways to serve them.

Thank you,

Steven J. Fraietta, Building Inspector



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



2014 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, who continually work with dedication toward 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 the financing of over sixty-three (63) capital projects to include bond issuance; management of nine (9) municipal parking lots; and maintenance of resident alarm permits for fire and burglary.

In 2014 the Finance Department's accomplishments included:

- In January, Requests for Proposals (RFP's) were issued for financial advisors and actuary services. The results of the RFP's have yielded savings for the Town.
- A multi-year Capital Plan that schedules needed and anticipated infrastructure and equipment repairs and replacement in a manner that spreads cost as evenly as possible to avoid high and low debt repayment. This is a valuable tool for financial planning.
- A five (5) year financial projection 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.
- Bonds are constantly monitored by the Finance Department. In May 2014, the bond issued in 2005 became callable. This meant that the town could refund this bond for a more favorable interest rate while not extending the payback period from the original bond. This resulted in a net savings of \$105,904 for the Town.
- Due to strong financial management and strong planning tools utilized by the town, in May 2014, Standards and Poors rating agency reaffirmed a Aaa/Stable bond rating for the Town of Bedford.
- For our non-resident commuter lot on Woodsbridge Road in Katonah, we added daily permits for sale at the pay stations in the lot. These daily permits have increased lot usage on average an additional 25 cars per day and are generating an additional \$7,800 per year.
- During the summer of 2014, the Finance Department worked with the Highway Department's foreman, Andy Rosafort, to reconfigure parking in commuter lot # 1 in Katonah. This reconfiguration yielded an additional twenty-nine (29) spaces and four (4) additional handicapped spaces. The additional spaces generated an additional

\$13,775 to the Town's revenue and allowed many residents to move their parking lot assignment to this preferred lot.

- In 2014, the Finance Department began accepting credit cards from residents.
- The parking permit system was reconfigured and additional technology was added to streamline the renewal process. The parking application was placed on the Town's website, and residents were informed that they could complete the application and return it to us by fax, e-mail or regular mail. Many took advantage of this online application, utilizing the new option to pay by credit card. The feedback received from residents was all positive.
- 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 that not only provides all services our residents expect to receive and brings the tax levy increase substantially under the tax cap.
- The financial management showed positive signs for 2014. There is a projected surplus in the General fund. The Highway fund was budgeted to use \$250,000 of its fund balance to balance its 2014 budget. Of this, it is only projected to use \$147,429. These numbers are preliminary projections subject to a final review and annual audit in early March.

The Finance Department has had its challenges as well. As we approached the final quarter of 2014, we had to replace our payroll person. Year end work in the payroll department is quite difficult with various contract close-outs for the year. Our new payroll person attacked the position and worked diligently to take care of all needs. She has been a great addition.

The tax freeze program, enacted by the Governor, is underway. For our residents to be eligible, in the first year, we needed any tax levy increase to be within the tax cap, which it was. For future years we will need to show a sustained 1% reduction in expenditures for each of the next five years. We have reviewed all options and will be recommending to the Town Board that we partner with Westchester County to submit a plan to the Comptroller's Office by June of 2015 to demonstrate our planned savings and efficiencies. We have identified several areas where we have already accomplished efficiencies, and we expect we will receive credits for these actions.

The affordable healthcare act has brought more reporting challenges to our department as well for the year ending 2014, and also 2015. We are all reviewing all of the changes as information becomes available. I am confident we will make every effort to continue to safeguard the financial health of the Town of Bedford.

Thank you,

Edward Ritter, Town Comptroller



John J. Stockbridge
TOWN HISTORIAN

TOWN OF BEDFORD
OFFICE OF TOWN HISTORIAN



Christina Rae
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Historian's Office
Annual Report --- 2014

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 history and offers the service of written reports upon request. 2014 marks the second year in which extensive property reports were completed on a fee basis.

The office works closely with the Bedford Historical Society, the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds, the Westchester County Historical Society, and the Katonah Historical Library on research inquiries for Town events and other matters of local history. The office also exchanges information with other towns in the pursuit of answers to historical inquiries. In addition, in 2014 we assisted the Historic Building Preservation Commission in preparing a survey of historic properties.

This year, we completed a project to digitize the newsprint of two of our historic newspapers, the Bedford Villager (which was in existence in the years 1945-1956), and the North Castle Sun Times (1915-1928). The project, which began in 2013, was undertaken jointly with the North Castle Public Library.

A two-year effort to microfilm and digitize the cemetery records of all Town cemeteries and burying grounds was also completed. The records, largely compiled in the 1930's, serve as an invaluable resource to the Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds.

John J. Stockbridge, Town Historian

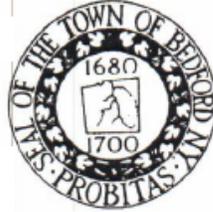
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TOWN OF BEDFORD WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY

Joan M. Gallagher
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL



2014 Annual Report – Personnel Department

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 six individuals in 2014 to replace employees who previously retired/resigned: three police officers; one Sr. Office Assistant – Comptroller; one Sr. Office Assistant – Automated Systems (now shared between two departments); one Motor Equipment Operator; and one Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor.

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 1.9% in 2014 which was below industry wide increases.

The Town of Bedford had multiple random inspections from the Public Employee Safety and Health Department (PESH) of New York State. The final outcome is that the Town is in compliance with PESH regulations and recommendations. We continue to hold annual training, monitor all injuries/accidents and update programs/policies to ensure the safety of our employees. Our work related injuries/illnesses are down by 50% from 2013. New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), the Town's workers comp and liability insurer, considers the Town of Bedford to be one of their model agencies.



TOWN OF BEDFORD PLANNING DEPARTMENT

425 Cherry Street • Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Tel: (914) 666-4434 • Fax: (914) 666-2026

E-Mail: Planning@BedfordNY.gov

Jeffrey Osterman, Director of Planning
Marie Figueiredo, Legal Intern

Anne Paglia, Planning Secretary

Annual Report 2014

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. The Planning Department has discussed updating the Comprehensive Plan with the Town Board at two public meetings. In February, the Planning Board began a process of reviewing the existing Plan.

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 2014

The Planning Board conducted 23 public meetings in 2014, during which the Board considered various permit applications and discussed land use policy issues. The Board also took 6 field trips to inspect 14 individual properties proposed for development.

A total of 40 formal resolutions were approved by the Board during the year for development projects of all types, including a group home, home occupations, cottages, accessory apartments, nursery schools, and tennis courts. Two applications for lot line subdivisions were discussed. The Board also reviewed commercial building applications for a gluten-free bakery, gourmet shop, renovation of a car dealership, golf course maintenance building, car wash, and rug dealer.

The Board discussed the following land use topics in 2014:

- Affordable housing
- Invasive plants legislation
- Cottage regulations
- Bed and breakfast uses
- Bedford Village Movie Theater

Wetlands Control Commission Activities in 2014

The Wetlands Control Commission held eight meetings in 2014, reviewing applications for development within a 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 nineteen permits for activities in the wetland buffer. In addition, ten Administrative Permits were approved by the Wetlands Permit Official for minor activities.

In 2014, the Commission recommended revisions to the Town Wetlands Law (Chapter 122 of the Town Code). These changes simplify the approval process and reduce costs and time for smaller projects. The Town Board approved the recommended changes in November.

Historic Building Preservation Commission Activities in 2014

The Historic Building Preservation Commission held twenty-seven public meetings in 2014 to review applications under Section 71-25 of the Town Code. The Commission took 7 field trips during the year to review building applications. During the year, the Commission approved thirteen 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



Melvin Padilla
Chief of Police

TOWN OF BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Bedford Police Department is a full time police department with 38 sworn officers serving a community with a population of approximately 18,000 residents over 39.3 square miles. Uniformed officers of the Patrol Bureau provide services along approximately 161 miles of roadway within the town, as well as assistance along sections of Interstate 684 and the Saw Mill River Parkway. The Bedford Police Department also has a full service detective division that follows up and investigates all criminal cases that are reported annually.

2014 At a Glance:

- 22,155 calls for service
- 402 criminal cases reported
- 246 arrests (41 DWI)
- \$564,723 of stolen property reported (\$163,682 recovered)
- 2956 summonses (866 Speed)
- 92 Child Seat Safety Inspections
- 574 Motor Vehicle Accidents (0 fatalities, 158 injuries)

This was the first year we participated in the Northern Westchester Narcotics Task Force, which led to **38 drug-related arrests (12 felonies)** and over **\$8000 in cash seized**. Drugs that were seized include **Cocaine, Marijuana, Cannabis lollipops and candy bars, Xanax, Morphine, Oxycodone, Suboxone, Vicodin, and Adderall**. Participation with this task force was extremely successful, not only here in the Town of Bedford, but across the entire County. We look forward to continuing this resource sharing and interagency cooperation in 2015.

In 2014, we entered into an agreement with Westchester County to allow the installation of a new shared radio tower on Guard Hill that will improve communication for all emergency services, including fire and EMS, which will make our residents safer.

We are also proud to report that our agency was reaccredited this year for the third time by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice through 2019. This was a noteworthy accomplishment and is a testament to the hard work and professionalism of our officers.

307 BEDFORD ROAD • BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507

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A NEW YORK STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



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

2014 Annual Report

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: www.bedfordny.gov/departments/dpw/recycling.

In 2014 Bedford DPW's accomplishments included:

Highway Division and Recycling Center:

- Increased road paving from \$0.85 million in 2014 to \$1.1 million in 2014, through a combination of operating and capital funds. This increase allowed us to pave more miles of road, 7.5 miles in total, and enhanced the level of service to our residents.
- Replaced deteriorated drainage systems on Griffin Avenue, Mount Holly Road, Stanwood Road, and Meadow Lane.
- Completed the Jay Street and Valley Road sidewalk projects, providing improved pedestrian access in the community.
- Initiated 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 to be completed in the first half of 2015. The new facility will offer the same services as the existing facility and will include additional parking. The construction is being performed by Town employees, substantially reducing the cost of the project.

Water Division:

- Completed the first full year of operating the Consolidated District Water Filtration Plant, improving water quality to our residents 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.
- Completed the six month Water Filtration Plant automation demonstration test period and submitted a report to Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) with the results. Automation significantly reduces operating costs as compared to a 24/7 staffed facility; however, this full automation requires more extensive WCDOH testing.
- Upgraded our water billing system to include better accounting system functionality.

- Began providing service to the two New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision facilities (NYSDOCCS) in Bedford Hills. NYSDOCCS was a significant partner in our water filtration plant project, providing economy of scale on both capital and operating expenses and reducing the rate impact to water district customers.

Bedford DPW's 2015 budget is below the NY State tax cap and maintains an increased paving level of \$1.1 million. It is anticipated that we will begin construction in 2015 on updating the Bedford Hills Highway Yard in order to improve winter operations, mechanical maintenance facilities and truck-washing facilities. It is also anticipated that once WCDOH approval is obtained, the Consolidated Water District will be supplied entirely by the Water Filtration Plant.

Kevin Winn, P.E. Commissioner

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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, Senior Recreation Leader
Suzanne Carpentier, Senior Office Assistant
Susan DeFonce, Office Assistant
Tom Megna, Parks Foreman
Mark Morin, Assistant Parks Foreman
Richard Pochintesta, Automotive Mechanic
John Goodman, Parks Maintenance
Pete Welch, Parks Maintenance
Matt Halpin, Parks Maintenance
Matt Van Dorn, Parks Maintenance

2014 Annual Report

The goal of the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Department is to offer a variety of recreational programs and services and to provide well-maintained, safe park facilities for the residents of the Town of Bedford to 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 Recreation staff, 2 administrative support staff and 7 parks staff. The Recreation and Parks Department employs over 250 seasonal part-time/full-time staff to support the programs offered and to assist with the maintenance of our park facilities, historic properties, cemeteries and other outside properties. Most of these seasonal employees are local high school and college students.

Recreation Highlights 2014

Spring - Summer - Fall - Winter Activities

The Annual Spring Egg Hunt held in mid-April in partnership with the John Jay Homestead had over 275 participants. The 2014 Egg Hunt was held at the FLHS turf field due to soft/wet ground conditions at the JJHS.

The Annual Fishing Derby event held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park in early May had 81 participants. The Sportsmen's Club of Northern Westchester was on hand again this year to assist our young anglers in need! New for 2014 was the sponsorship/donation of \$400.00 from the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association that was used for prizes.

The Learn to Ride Bike & Car Seat Inspection Program was offered in May at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park. This event saw one of our largest tumouts in recent years and was a co-sponsored event with the Bedford Police Department.

FREE - Summer Concert at Katonah Memorial – held in mid-July – was sponsored by the Katonah Memorial Park Association in cooperation with the Recreation and Parks Department, and featured a local band, "The Mulligans." This event drew a crowd of over 200 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 "ET" 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 2014. The Katonah S&D team hosted their annual invitational in July that highlighted 50 years of competition in the NWSL! Congratulations to BH S&D team for winning their Division 4 championship earning the right to move into Division 3 in 2015.

Pool & Library Partnerships - Poolside 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 Book Cart – "Take a Book / Swap a Book" carts, 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. 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 Away Travel Camp. In 2014, there were 660 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 a **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.

Bedford Community Theatre (BCT) made a spectacular return with the fall production of "Oliver" in November. The cast of over 40, ranging in ages from 8 to 60+, performed in eight capacity-filled shows over the course of two weekends.

The Annual Turkey Trot Road Race was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, with the finish line at Bedford Village Memorial Park. The all volunteer Turkey Trot Committee was pleased to report that the race registration was sold out, with 475 runners. In spite of the cold weather, the race was a big success.

Ladies' Bingo was a full house of fun and excitement at the Bedford Hills Community House in mid-October. Over 40 donated prizes from local Town of Bedford businesses were donated for this annual event.

Youth and Adult Tennis lessons were 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.

As a part of the Town Board-adopted and -approved Capital Project Improvement projects, preparation with the Town IT consultant began in 2014 for the purchase, installation, staff training and implementation of Web Trac, a software package that will be used for online registration for Recreation and Parks Department sponsored programs starting in the spring of 2015.

Noteworthy Miscellaneous Events

New Senior Adult Passenger Bus – was delivered and placed into service this past fall. The new 14-passenger vehicle replaces a 2002 12-passenger vehicle.

Arbor Day Events – Sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board - the 14th year of recognition as a Tree City USA was celebrated with an Arbor Day tree-planting celebration at Bedford Hills Memorial Park. Two beautiful red sunset "swamp" maples donated by Yonkers Excavating were planted by the Parks staff.

The Cemetery Committee – an all-volunteer group worked tirelessly in 2014 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

Bedford Village Green Seating Areas –with approval from the Bedford Historic Review Committee, and through a very generous donation of \$2,400.00 by the Bedford Armonk Rotary Club, four new park benches were purchased and placed on the green. In selected areas, existing benches were refurbished and new bluestone pads for under the benches were installed by the Parks staff. New bluestone pads for the trash/recycling containers were added as well.

Oliver's Restaurant in Katonah sponsored a **FREE** St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for over 100 Bedford senior adults at the BHCH in March.

The Bedford Meals on Wheels program – utilizing an all-volunteer delivery staff delivered 6,443 meals an average of 537 per month to Town of Bedford residents in need.

The Canine Commons Dog Park – through the Town Clerk's Office - 253 dog park permits were sold in 2014. This is the highest number of permits issued since the permit system was first implemented in 2008!

Bill Heidepriem, Superintendent

TOWN OF BEDFORD RECEIVER OF TAXES

Amy M. Pectol
Receiver of Taxes



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

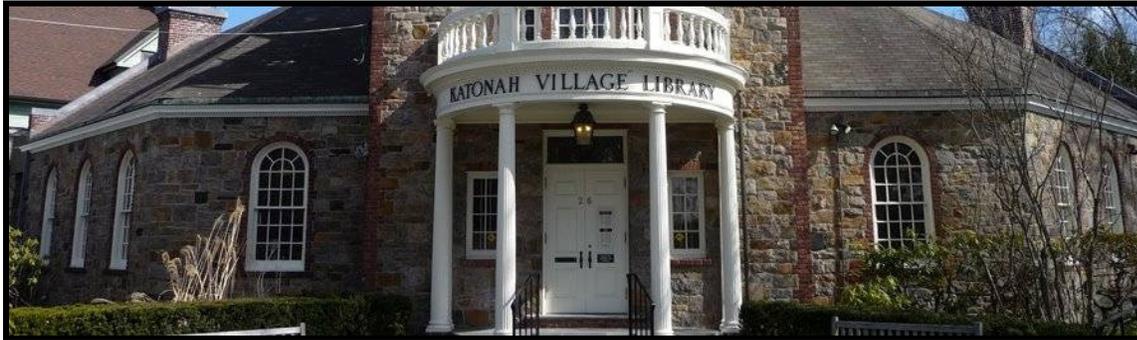
The Town of Bedford Tax Receiver's office is responsible for collecting taxes for the County, Town, Special Districts, and School Districts for all properties that are within the Town of Bedford. There are currently 6296 parcels of land in the Town, 5950 of which are taxable.

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 2014, this office collected \$84,687,871 in base taxes and \$326,504 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 2014, the Tax Receiver's office collected \$45,279,181 in taxes and \$90,423 in penalties.

In July of every year, all unpaid taxes from the previous year become a lien, debt which the town carries. The tax receiver is required to place liens on the properties that have unpaid taxes, notify the owners of said liens and file the list with Westchester County. As of July 2014, we had 97 active liens totaling \$2,688,016 without penalties. The year ended with 37 active liens totaling \$804,244 without 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.



**Financial Statements and
Supplementary Information**

Year Ended December 31, 2013

- [2013 Audit Report](#)

*** Five Year Financial Projection – 2016 – 2020**

- [Major Fund Summary*](#)
- [General Fund*](#)
- [Highway Fund*](#)

*Please note that 2014 figures are unaudited results.

[Bedford 2020 Progress Report](#) – March 30, 2015