

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
Don B. Scott
MaryAnn Carr
Kate Galligan

January 28, 2018

Dear Bedford Resident,

The Town of Bedford is considering adopting regulations for the use of leaf blowers. We have heard from many of you that the noise from leaf blowers is a nuisance, but there are many additional reasons to consider reducing their use including significant health concerns, air pollution and other environmental impacts.

We are particularly concerned about the health issues that arise when gas-powered (liquid-fueled) leaf blowers are used. The two-stroke engines of these machines are significantly more polluting than cars. They emit high levels of contaminants including hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter. Additionally, the dust thrown into the air from leaf blowers can contain particles of pesticides, fertilizers, mold, fungus, animal feces, pollen and more. All of these pollutants can stay suspended in the air for hours and travel many miles creating potential health concerns for everyone, but especially for children, landscapers and those with respiratory conditions. Several health organizations have supported restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers including Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center (<http://www.lincolntown.org/documentcenter/view/733>) and the American Lung Association (<http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/outdoor/air-pollution/10-tips-to-protect-yourself.html>)

I would like to invite you, as a resident of Bedford, to an **Open Discussion** on how we might mitigate some of these concerns through regulation of leaf blower use. The discussion will take place at **7:30 pm on February 13 at the Katonah Village Library**. At this time we will share with you more detailed information about the health, pollution and environmental problems associated with leaf blower use and discuss alternatives.

Your participation in this discussion is important, as there are several options to consider for regulation including types of blowers (gas-powered vs. electric), as well as seasonal and time of day limits. We would like to hear your ideas and any concerns.

In the weeks following the Open Discussion, a newly formed Leaf Blower Committee of the Town Board will be drafting the legislation and will be continuing to consider input from residents. Please feel free to contact the committee by writing to: LeafBlowers@Bedfordny.gov. In addition, the committee will be seeking input from landscapers and others who may be impacted by new regulations.

Please mark your calendars! I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

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

Chris Burdick