



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – November 30, 2016



MOVING AHEAD ON THE SEWER PLAN

I am pleased to report that the Town of Bedford has reached agreements in principle with the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which form the foundation for the Town of Bedford forming a sewer district to serve the central business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah, DOCCS' correctional facilities in Bedford Hills, Katonah Elementary School, St. Mary of the Assumption Church property in Katonah, Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills and some adjacent public buildings. Available on the Town's website <http://wp.me/P7Yyww-1kl> are the term sheet between the Town and DOCCS, the term sheet between the Town and DEP and the Map, Plan & Report (MPR), prepared by the Town's consulting engineers, Arcadis. The MPR serves as a disclosure document to the public setting out the key provisions of the sewer plan, including a description of the sewer district with map; the sewer system to be constructed, including its cost and how it will be financed; the projected costs for operating and maintaining the system, including projected costs on a property by property basis for those in the sewer district. A key point: no one who is not served by the district will pay for it. Only those who are directly served will pay. We are especially pleased that only \$1.2 million in sewer bonds will be needed to finance the cost of the project, thanks to \$12.8 million being provided by DEP (in lieu of their costs for constructing mini sewer plants for KES, St. Mary's and Bedford Park Apartments) and up to \$6.5 million from the County's Water Quality Improvement Program. We will acquire at no cost DOCCS' wastewater treatment plant presently only serving the correctional facilities.

As I personally promised DEP Assistant Commissioner David Warne in April, the Town continues to move ahead expeditiously. I am placing on the Bedford Town Board December 6 meeting agenda requests for approval, among other things, of the term sheets, the MPR and an order to call a public hearing for January 10, 2017 on the establishment of the sewer

district. Following the January 10 public hearing, should the Town Board determine it is in the public interest to establish the sewer district, I will recommend that we call the mandatory election among the property owners in the proposed sewer district for March 14, 2017. We have determined with bond counsel that, based on our computation of costs, NYS Comptroller approval will not be required for the Town's plan (though Comptroller approval will be required for DOCCS actions). So if all moves ahead as planned, the Town will engage an engineer next Spring to design the sewer system, which is a lengthy process (as much as 18 months) following which construction would take place. We will keep you posted.

AND DON'T FORGET THE SEPTIC SYSTEM PROGRAM – We want property owners to be aware that financial help is available for those in the NYC Watershed (about 80% of the land area) with failing septic systems. Under Bedford's Septic System Repair and Replacement Program, the Town now has reimbursed over \$130,000 in eligible costs covering 32 properties. As you've probably read, you need to have your septic system cleaned and inspected once every five years. Septic inspections are required by New York State law as incorporated in town law. You don't want to encounter septic system problems in the middle of the winter. If you have a failing septic system, help is here for reimbursement up to 50% of approved eligible expenses for repair or replacement of a septic system, as well as design engineering costs not to exceed 20% of total construction costs. Almost all the properties in Bedford Hills and Katonah and many in Bedford Village are in the watershed. We have a number of items posted on our website at <http://wp.me/P7Yyww-10j>. If your septic collector or contractor reports that your system is in failure, and you wish to benefit from the reimbursement program, go onto the website and download the application form which provides the simple steps you should take. Still have questions? Please call me at 666-6530 or e-mail me at supervisor@bedfordny.gov

2017 BUDGET Town Comptroller Abe Zambrano, whom I appointed as Budget Officer for the 2017 budget, submitted to the Town Clerk the tentative 2017 budget which complies with the New York property tax cap. The Board adopted the tentative budget at its November 1 meeting, which now is the preliminary budget. The budget provides for a continuation of the high quality services to the community. The Board has scheduled a public hearing for December 6 at 6:30 PM on the budget for final consideration of the 2017 budget. Town Comptroller Abe Zambrano has provided the following summary of the budget:

“On November 15, 2016, the Town Board opted to adopt the Tentative Budget and consequently, the document became the Town's Preliminary Budget for 2017. The Board's action was preceded by several public work sessions and the timely filing of the Budget with the Town Clerk.

The appropriations for the 2017 Tentative Budget for all funds is \$36,236,710 and the projected non-tax revenues total \$11,980,697, leaving an amount of \$23,906,013 to be levied as taxes; this amount is \$1,264 below the calculated allowable tax cap of \$23,907,277.

The Property Tax Levy Cap legislation came into effect in 2012 and was originally referred to as the 2% Tax Cap. However, the legislation as adopted made provisions for the tax levy to be allowed to grow on a yearly basis by either 2% or the rate of inflation; whichever is lower. Due to the Country's economic conditions, that percentage has

eroded since the adoption of the legislation. This year, our allowable tax cap growth was set at 0.68% by the Office of the State Comptroller and our tax base growth at 0.94% by the Department of Taxation and Finance; this percentage is related to the increases in assessed valuation based on improvements to properties such as new construction. The combination of those rates total 1.86% and has allowed for the Town's total tax levy to grow by \$437,450 over the 2016 tax levy.

This year, taking into account increases in workers' compensation, health and liability insurance costs as well as contractual labor obligations and the Town Board's continuous proactive measures to maintain efficiencies, the proposed 2017 tax levy of \$23,906,013 will be under the Property Tax Levy Cap set by the State Comptroller's Office.

The total General Fund budget is \$20,495,444 which requires \$11,938,179 to be raised by taxes at a tax rate of \$20.3765 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The proposed rate is \$0.23 higher than the rate for 2016, which represents a 1.14% tax rate increase. The General Fund Appropriations will increase \$300,660 or 1.49% higher than for 2016.

The Tentative General Fund budget includes an \$80,000 increase in Sales Tax Revenues as well as a small increase in Summer Camp fees and income from the Rental of Real Property. On the expense side of the Tentative Budget, aside from the fore mentioned insurances, the budget makes provisions for an expansion of our recycling program, additional paper shredding services for our residents, \$3,000 above 2016 funding for each of the three Libraries as well as a small increases in funding for the Conservation Board and for work at the Town owned cemeteries. The General Fund's Budget also includes an appropriation of \$200,000 from Fund Balance and \$175,000 from the General Fund Debt Service Fund Balance.

The Highway Fund's tentative budget totals \$7,970,968 and requires a tax levy in the amount of \$7,362,128 and a tax rate of \$12.5659 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This rate represents an increase of \$0.41 or 3.41% over the 2016 budget.

The Highway Fund's Tentative Budget makes provision for additional funding of \$50,000 above the 2016 budgeted amount for the Town's Road Maintenance program, as well as increases for health and workers' compensation insurance, contractual labor obligations and associated retirement contributions. Similarly to the 2016 Adopted Budget, the 2017 Tentative Budget includes an appropriation of Fund Balance of \$150,000. It also includes a \$90,000 appropriation from the Highway Fund Debt Service Fund Balance.

The Consolidated Water, Cedar Downs, The Farms and Old Post Water Districts' Tentative 2017 Budget require that the Town Board consider a 3% increase in water rates; the last water rate increase was in 2011. The Tentative 2017 Budget for the four water funds will cover the necessary expenses for each district in order to operate and deliver such vital service.

The 2017 Tentative Budget for the three Park District Funds include funding that would enable to the Town to continue providing such an important amenity to the residents.

The Budget includes funding to appropriately staff the three parks and pools as well as for the maintenance of the grounds.

In addition to the information provided above, the following is a summary of supplementary factors regarding the Tentative 2017 Budget as presented.

Based on historical financial information and analysis, and current economic conditions, Non-Tax Revenues are being projected to total \$11,980,697 in 2017. This amount will represent 34% of the overall town-wide revenue sources for the year.

The proposed budget reflect salary increases throughout the budgetary accounts based upon our contracts with the PBA and Teamsters' Local 456, and recommended increases for the non-contract employees. The Town has current contracts with its three bargaining units; the agreement with the Blue Collar Teamsters Unit will expire on December 31, 2017 while the contracts with the White Collar Teamsters and PBA are due to expire on December 31, 2018.

Short term debt has increased by \$133,485 due to planned short term borrowing that will be issued to temporarily finance projects, while the long term debt funding will generate a decrease in appropriations in the amount of \$151,792.

Assessed Valuations as reported by the Town Assessor demonstrate an increase from 583,475,484 to 585,878,509; a net increase of taxable assessments of \$2,403,025. Increases in the taxable assessments has allowed for the Town's Tax Base Growth to provide a much needed boost in the tax cap calculation.

The Town Board has been presented a draft Ten Year Capital Plan that includes projects ranging from improvements to Town owned facilities, infrastructure and road maintenance, to replacement of heavy equipment, police vehicles, records maintenance and financial software as well as equipment for public and traffic safety. The submitted Ten Year Capital Plan serves to guide the future decision-making of the Board on capital expenses and major improvements.

Financial Condition – Our auditors, O'Connor, Davis, Munns & Dobbins, LLP have expressed to the Board that our financial condition is excellent. We have obtained an Aaa bond rating from Moody's Investors Services, which is "notably stronger than the US city median of Aa3" according to Moody's. With this budget and the overall financial health of the Town, we are in a position to keep the Town of Bedford moving forward in the years ahead. With the Board's support we anticipate having another great year and continuous financial health.

All in all, the 2017 Preliminary Budget as approved by the Town Board will meet the needs of the Town government in 2017."

2016 THROUGH 2025 CAPITAL PLAN

Ten Year Capital Plan Adopted At the Town Board's November 15 meeting, the Board adopted a ten year Capital Plan replacing the 2014 to 2022 plan. Bedford is one of the few

New York municipalities of its size with such a robust capital planning process. It culminates in a long term plan, ours being 10 years. We take stock of our assets, such as buildings, roads, vehicles, water and storm systems and equipment. On a department by department basis we gauge the need for replacements, capital repairs, upgrades and other capital needs. The Town's financial advisors report that credit rating agencies look quite favorably on such a planning process as it enables the municipality to create a fiscal plan that accounts for such needs and reduce the likelihood of surprises. It replaces the plan adopted for years 2014 through 2022, though carries over much of the program. The total amount of projects total \$27,203,315 and is projected to add \$25,889,879.in debt with a total debt service of \$35,283,179 over the life of the bonds; this amount will be in addition to the current outstanding debt in the amount of \$36,799.627. Comptroller Abe Zambrano, who presented the Capital Plan to the Town Board, emphasized that with existing debt being paid, the new debt can be accommodated. The Capital Plan provides for needed renovations to facilities such as the police station renovation, upgrade to Adams Street Highway Yard and replacement and upgrades to vehicles and equipment. The Comptroller has explained that with the Board's adoption of the Capital Plan, the Finance Department will be working with the Town's Bond Counsel and Financial Advisors to strategize the timing of the borrowing. Based on conversations he has had with the Town's Financial Advisors, he is anticipating that the projected interest rates being used to calculate future debt payments is sufficient in spite of the fact that short and long term bond rates increased after the elections. At this point, the bond market remains volatile and is expected to remain as such over the next few weeks. Short term notes are still below 1.5%, while long rates are just below 3%. Our estimates are based on 1.5% for BANs and 3.5% for BONDS.

Is it being anticipated at this time that the market will settle in the New Year.

Both the 2017 budget and 10 year Capital Plan should keep the Town in a strong financial position with the highest credit rating available and solid fund balances or reserves.

The Town's 2015 Financial Statements and Supplementary Information – PKF O'Brien Davies, LLP (the Town's auditors) is available [Click here](#)
2015 Annual Report of Town of Bedford is available. [Click here](#)

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Town's Comptroller, Abe Zambrano, reported on November 7 as follows:

General Fund. Revenues received through October 31st amount to \$18,063,665 out of the \$19,990,784 budgeted for the year, while expenditures total \$15,255,697 for the same period. These numbers represent 90.36% and 75.50% of the budget respectively. It is important to note, that between the months of November and December, in addition to normal expenses, substantial payments for debt service and the retirement system will add a projected \$1.83 million in expenditures. However, based on revenue and expenditure projections through the end of the year, we are anticipating a surplus for the year.

Highway Fund. The Highway fund has collected \$7,237,030 of its \$7,548,848 in budgeted revenues. Conversely, it has spent \$5,353,664 of its budgeted appropriations of \$7,698,848. As previously reported, the Highway Fund has collected 95.80% of its revenues as of October 31st. Expenditures through the same period have reached \$5,353,664 or 69.20% of the budget. At this point, based on anticipated activity through

December 31, we are projecting that the Highway Fund will also be adding to its reserves in 2016.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. Based on the number of title search inquiries we have experienced over the past several months, we are anticipating that the second installment of this year's mortgage tax revenue sharing will be in the \$530,000 range. The foresaid projected amount and the first mortgage tax installment received in June will allow us to exceed our budgeted amount of \$1,040,000.

Sales Tax. Westchester County's remittance for the quarter ended in September 30th was in the amount of \$622,118. Although that amount is slightly lower than estimated, we are anticipating exceeding the amount budgeted by over \$120,000 based on historical data and projections provided by Westchester County. Keeping in mind however, that the last quarter of the year historically brings higher sales tax revenues generated by the holiday season, we may end realizing a larger 4th quarter payment.

Parking. In spite of the fact that we have been able to issue additional parking permits to residents on the waiting list, we are still projecting a deficit in the \$40,000 range in parking revenues. Based on past years' historical activity, we will end the year realizing parking revenues in the \$890,000 range.

Fines and Forfeited Bail. Collection of Justice Court fines are recorded a month in arrears due to the timing of the processing by the NYS Office of Court Administration. As of September 30th, we have recorded \$504,677 in fines. Forecasts indicate that the budgeted amount of \$655,000 to be exceeded by the end of the year.

Safety Inspections. Safety Inspection fees collected through October 31st total \$719,020. Additional fees for the two remaining months will exceed the \$20,980 necessary to meet the amount budgeted for the year. In fact, due to an unusually large building permit fee issued earlier this year, the projected total revenues for safety inspections may reach the \$800,000 range. However, we need to keep that anomaly in mind when we project these fees in 2017.

Cable Franchise Fees. Collections of Cable Franchise Fees as of October total \$189,013 out to the \$300,000 budgeted for the year. Based on prior year's activity, substantial payments are received in November and December. We are projecting that the total payments received for the year will exceed \$350,000.

ACTION ON TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Following public hearings on measures to improve safety on Valley Road, Winding Lane and the challenging intersection of Bedford Road and Parkway, the Town Board adopted the following:

Valley Road and Winding Lane Residents had complained about parked vehicles on the shoulder impeding traffic flow. Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn reported that a letter was sent to residents of Valley Road and Winding Lane regarding options ranging from no parking permitted at all to a four hour limit. Valley Road residents favored a four hour limitation and Winding Lane residents favored no parking. This change has been adopted and signage has been installed. It should be noted that a resident who spoke at the public hearing stated that the limitations should cover more of Valley Road. We will be considering these suggestions.

Lawrence Circle/Parkway The Town Board adopted the following:

- 1) Replace yield signs with stop signs
- 2) Narrow down Parkway (northeast corner) with concrete planters on a trial basis (ensuring that the passage is wide enough for fire department apparatus)
- 3) Trim the bushes at Lawrence Circle and other areas where line of sight is obstructed.
- 4) Create a "refuge island" at the median on Parkway.
- 5) Increase length of the no parking zone closest to the crosswalk in front of the library.

MULCHING AND BLOWING OF LEAVES

The Town has embraced "Leave - Leaves Alone" in our park and facility maintenance operations and our crews do an outstanding job in doing so. A majority of our leaves are mulched in the parks, cemeteries, Town campus buildings and historic areas. We have also spent a considerable amount of money adding mulching blades and other attachments to our fleet of mowing equipment. As a result our leaf sucker machine had less than five (5) hours put on the meter last year! There are times when the mulching of leaves cannot be done and blowers are utilized. This could be from weather conditions (as we experienced this past weekend), amount of leaves that have fallen, park use schedule with games, etc. Additionally, there are many areas we can't mulch leaves, such as sidewalks, paths, courts, playgrounds, patios and parking lots. Bedford 2020 is aware of such limitations.

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Superintendent Bill Heidepriem reports as follows:

November Highlights

The Bedford Community Theatre (BCT) enjoyed a wonderful fall season with the successful production of *Willy Wonka* at the Bedford Hills Community House. Lead by a group of dedicated volunteers the BCT team hosted 8 shows in November with a cast of over 30 very talented actors of all ages. Congratulations BCT on another great fall production!

Congratulations to Recreation Supervisor Kimberly O'Brien who just completed her course work and graduated from Supervisor's Management School sponsored by the National Recreation and Parks Association and North Carolina State University

The 2017 Winter Recreation and Parks program brochure is now available online by visiting www.Bedfordny.gov. Printed copies are available at the Recreation Office and local libraries while supplies last. Printed copies were distributed in the local elementary schools in late November. Program registration started on November 28th. The online registration option is available for most programs offered. The 2017 Spring Summer brochure will be available in mid-March.

The Parks Department staff has been busy winterizing the park facilities and grounds in addition to coordinating off season projects in the various parks. Turf care is a high priority. The Parks staff uses a combination of mowing / mulching leaves where possible and blows leave off certain turf and pavement areas in the areas they maintain. The use of mulching blades and kits on the turf mowing equipment has greatly reduced the need to blow leaves off the turf areas in many areas.

Upcoming events / activities

Senior Adult Holiday Luncheon hosted by the Town of Bedford will be held on Wednesday December 7th at the Bedford Hills Community House from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$5.00 fee. For additional information please contact the Recreation Office senior line at 666-7203

The historic **Bedford Oak** will have a comprehensive limb assessment performed by the SavA Tree Company and Cahilly Horticultural Services on Friday December 9th between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm. The assessment involves the use of a crane and bucket truck. No limb cutting or pruning will be performed as part of this assessment. A police presence will be on site during the assessment for traffic control on Route 22 and Hook Road. This work was approved by the Town Board and endorsed by the Tree Advisory Board. A full report on the overall health of the tree and recommendations for future care will be presented to the Town Board in early 2017.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The DPW has been carrying out patching and road repairs ahead of winter (the asphalt plant closes in mid-December). The department also has been working on the salt shed which will provide a more environmentally friendly storage of our sand/salt winter treatment. The Department also is carrying out leaf pick up on certain streets in the hamlets, follow the link for the schedule, <http://wp.me/P7Yyww-3j>

WESTCHESTER POWER – COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

How has it been performing? You may recall that we said that we'd have Westchester Power (the CCA program operated by Sustainable Westchester) track the performance of the CCA. They've tracked the CCA program, which is going on six months since its launch with the first billing cycles in May. They've tracked the fixed rate contracts against the variable energy costs under Con Edison and NYSEG. The analysis shows these have provided a modest savings or are breaking even (green option in NYSEG territory) versus the variable rate utility supply. For more information, please see <http://www.westchesterpower.org/rates/rates-so-far/>

NEW PARKING ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY IN USE The Town has been working to improve parking availability in the hamlets – this for convenience of shoppers and also because parking is the lifeblood of our businesses. Given the highly limited opportunities of increasing the number of spaces, turn over in spaces is key. As such, we have been focusing on ensuring that the posted parking time limits are observed. Working with the Police Department and the service which handles the processing of parking tickets, we recently put in place new technology to help our parking enforcement bureau. The Bedford Police will no longer be utilizing the traditional "chalking of tires" method to monitor overtime parking. Gone are those chalk sticks (maybe we should offer them to the Smithsonian). New License Plate Reader (LPR) technology is now in use. Vehicles are now monitored through state of the art Global Positioning System (GPS) technology which alerts our parking enforcement officers to vehicles that are in violation of our overtime restrictions. In addition, this new technology identifies scofflaw vehicles as well.

POLICE STATION RENOVATION At the Town Board's December 6 meeting, the Board will be receiving recommendations from its Construction Manager and Architects regarding

bids received for the construction of the project. We understand that the bids were highly competitive and will result in the project cost estimates being downward adjusted from the previous estimates of \$7 million. It should be noted that the project costs include the significant renovations carried out to the lower level of the Town Offices at 321 Bedford Road, which now are the temporary headquarters for the Police Department. The project is a complete renovation of the existing police station with two additions. It is significantly less expensive than alternative plans for a two story building or an entirely new building estimates which would have exceeded \$12 million. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin next month and be completed in January 2018.

ENJOY THE NEW RECYCLING CENTER Supervisor Chris Burdick, members of the Town Board and Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn, carried out a “ribbon cutting” on October 29 for the Town of Bedford’s new and relocated Recycling Center at 343 Railroad Avenue in Katonah (one quarter mile south of Harris Road). The site is at no expense to the Town thanks to the NYS Department of Transportation, the owner of the property. We have received positive comments from the community on the new facility. Please follow the link <http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/10-29-16-Recycling-Center-Supervisors-Remarks.pdf> for the many we thank who made the new Recycling Center a reality. It should be noted that the Preliminary 2017 Budget includes quarterly paper shredding, three times at the Recycling Center and also during clean-up weekend in early May (dates to be announced). We also are considering other programs and facilities at the new Center.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC WORKS Those driving by the Town’s Highway Yard on Adams Street may have noticed the substantial work underway. It’s part of a \$2.5 million project to improve the facility. With the relocation of the recycling center (see item above) to its new home on Railroad Avenue, work now is underway to expand the highway garage, install a salt shed for improved, environmentally friend storage of salt and provide better facilities. While not an entirely new building, it is substantially less costly than the \$14 to \$15 million estimated under earlier plans (at a time when the economy was healthier and the Town’s budget might have been able to accommodate it). The scaled back plan will meet department needs for decades to come.

UPDATE ON KATONAH RAILROAD CROSSING - Director of Planning Jeff Osterman and Commissioner of Public Works Kevin Winn discussed a report recently received from CTC, Inc., consultants for Metro North Railroad, regarding proposed improvements to the railroad grade crossing at Jay Street in Katonah. Mr. Osterman explained that one of the key recommendations of the report is to implement the design plan created by the Town and Hahn Engineering ten years ago that would create a more defined pedestrian crossing and move the entrance to commuter parking lot #1 to the east to permit a left turn lane entering this parking lot. Mr. Winn discussed the other recommendations involving signs and pavement markings and stated that many of the suggestions have already been implemented. The report will be reviewed by the Town’s Traffic Safety Working Group who will transmit their observations to Metro North

REPAVING OF 684 we’re not there yet! It was very good news as reported previously that working collaboratively with the community and Assemblyman David Buchwald, we've secured a \$6 million appropriation for paving a *portion* of the Bedford stretch of I-684. We

need to get the *entire* stretch paved including the portion from Harris Road through the Exit 5/6 interchange. I ask your help again. Please pitch in to have your voices heard:

- Governor Cuomo: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>; also try <http://www.writethegovernorofnewyork.com/>; also 1-518-474-8390
- DOT Albany office: 518-457-6195
- DOT Region 8 Acting Regional Director Todd Westhuis: 845-431-5750
- If you send an e-mail, please consider copying me and our legislators:
- State Senator Latimer: latimer@nysenate.gov, 914-934-5350
- State Assemblyman Buchwald: buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us, 914-244-4450

PARKING IN THE HAMLET BUSINESS DISTRICTS

All Hamlets

Because there are limited opportunities to increase capacity, enforcement of parking limits is important to ensure turnover and space availability. Parking is the lifeblood of our businesses in the hamlets which depend upon customers and clients finding parking within reasonable distance. In that connection we have been working closely with Complus, the firm which handles the hardware and software related to our parking enforcement. Under a contract amendment with Complus, Complus has provided our parking enforcement unit new license plate readers significantly improving efficiency. By improving Parking Enforcement capability, we are able encourage more turn-over in parking spots (people don't overstay the time limits as much) due to the deterrent effect of the ticketing.

Bedford Village

- a. Court Road Parking – 11 New Spaces At the request of the Bedford Village Business Association, Bedford Playhouse and local businesses, the Town Board adopted a change in the parking law on June 21 which creates 11 on street parking spaces on Court Road. Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn developed the plan following discussions with the BVBA, the Bedford Village Elementary School, the Bedford Fire Department, residents of the road and other community members.
- b. Off Street Parking – Bedford Playhouse Building The Town is continuing discussions with Alchemy Partners and their counsel about the possibility of increasing parking on its premises and dedicating certain of the parking to municipal parking.
- c. Off Street Parking – Presbyterian Church Vacant Lot The Town also is in discussions with the Church about the possibility of acquiring vacant land the Church owns off of Court Road for creation of a municipal parking lot. The land is subject to a deed restriction which prevents the use of the property for such purposes. The Church is approaching the individual who deeded the property to remove the deed restriction. Upon removal of the deed restriction, the Town will proceed with the plan (the Town's Capital Plan includes funds for design and engineering to proceed).

CHANGES TO STAR PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS NEW TO TOWN SINCE JUNE 1, 2015

The STAR program has been amended to transition the STAR exemption to the payment of an annual STAR check from the NYS DTF-ORPTS for new property owners as of June 1st, 2015. Below is a brief summary:

- Property owners who received the STAR exemption based on their own application on their 2015/2016 school tax will experience no change. As long as they remain eligible they will continue to receive the STAR exemption on their school tax bill and can go from basic to enhanced and back to basic in the same manner as in the past for as long as they remain in their current home.
- New property owners who did not receive the STAR exemption based on their own application on their 2015/2016 school tax will not be eligible for a STAR exemption but will be eligible for a STAR check from DTF-ORPTS for the 2016/2017 school tax and beyond. It constitutes new ownership or a transfer when the new owner is completely different from prior owner (I.e. transfer from husband and wife to wife only may continue to receive the STAR exemption). (Property placed into a life estate may continue to receive the exemption).
- The STAR check program will be administered by the State, therefore when a property transfers, the assessor no longer needs to send STAR application information to the buyer.
- Eligibility for the STAR check is the same as for the STAR exemption, i.e. basic (primary residence, income) enhanced (primary residence, age, income). The STAR check amount will be equal to STAR saving on tax bill.
- Eligible owners must register with the State for the STAR check. Registration is not yet available. DTF-ORPTS will let us know when it is. Eligible owners who register with the State for the STAR check by July 1, 2016 and whose school taxes are levied on or before Sept., 2016 will receive a check in September, 2016. In the future it is intended that the STAR check will be received in the month that the School tax bill is levied.
- DTF-ORPTS call number for Taxpayers 1 (518) 591-5232

You should also feel free to contact the Bedford Tax Assessor at 914-864-3831

NYSEG TREE TRIMMING ALONG A FEW STREETS IN BEDFORD VILLAGE

NYSEG will be completing routine vegetation management work within our community shortly (see list of streets below). Residents impacted by the upcoming work will be receiving a postcard from NYSEG in the mail followed up by door to door notification closer to the actual work date. Trees are one of the leading causes of power interruptions. It's extremely important that there is proper clearance established and maintained between vegetation and the power lines to minimize power interruptions as well as reduce lengthy restoration times. Safety is the top priority; please slow down when approaching the tree crews and remember to never enter an established work zone.

- Brook Farm Lane
- Brook Farm Road
- Deep Wood Road
- East Brook Farm Road
- Loop Road
- Millertown Road
- Old Corner Road
- Peters Lane
- Plateau Lane
- Pound Ridge Road
- Stone Hill Road
- Trudy Lane

We recognize that property owners understandably are concerned about the impact that the tree trimming may have aesthetically as well as to provide shade and privacy. NYSEG tries to be sensitive as well, however, please be sure to contact NYSEG with any concerns and, of course, feel free to contact me.

FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SAKE – Please consider your neighbor when you go to work with your lawn blower, mower or weed whacker (or your lawn service uses them). We realize that your busy schedule makes it difficult to find time to get work done on your property. We all try to squeeze in time to do it. But please not too early and not too late. Our Town Code does not permit high noise activities, such as these, before 8 AM or after sunset.

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