

From the Supervisor

“Please don’t change Pittsford.” This is the one comment I hear far more frequently from Pittsford residents than any other.

Whether I’m visiting a neighborhood, or someone stops by Town Hall, or gives me a call, it comes up again and again. Unsolicited. From young, from old and in-between. In the most modest neighborhoods and the priciest. From people of all backgrounds.

I hear you. I’m with you. We live in a lovely and pleasant place, with outstanding quality of life. Of course we owe this to a great deal more than municipal government. Principally, I’ve always thought, it’s because in a broad sense most residents share values that make for good neighbors and for good relations among one another. Town government can compromise or undermine quality of life with bad policies, just as we can make it even better with the right ones.

And yet, in order to maintain the essentials that make Pittsford what it is – to maintain the vitality of all the aspects of our community that make us happy to live here – it actually takes a lot of change. It takes continual improvement. This understanding comprises the backbone of my approach to Town government.

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Pittsford Wins Climate Smart Community Designation

In September, the Town won designation as a Climate Smart Community. Through this designation the State recognizes our extensive commitment to sustainable practices and care for the environment.

“Our Town has a long history of policies and actions for environmental progress,” said Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith. “In 2017 we earned State recognition as a Clean Energy Community. This newest accomplishment follows on that success. The improvements we’ve made to become a Climate Smart Community are built on a long legacy of environmentally sustainable practices and policies.” Smith continued, “For example, we’ve replaced 95% of the Town’s streetlights with LED fixtures, installed solar panels at King’s Bend Park, built Electric Vehicle charging stations at our Spiegel Community Center and Library, and started a successful composting program at our Senior Center. Together with our many other efforts, these measures contribute to a healthier environment for us all. Climate Smart status is not an end; it is rather a milepost on the road to improved environmental health that Pittsford has traveled for years.”

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that encourages local governments to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Climate Smart Communities are acknowledged as municipal leaders in the state, by successfully completing designated actions and initiatives intended to mitigate climate change.



Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

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From the Supervisor

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Let's review what the Town has done along these lines in 2022.

Programs and Events

- We've moved past COVID restrictions, bringing our Recreation Center and Library back to a full schedule of programs.
- For the first time since 2019 we've staged a full schedule of special events: **11** Friday evening concerts along the canal, **three** Concerts for Kids, **four** Family Outdoor Movie Nights, the Memorial Day Parade, the Family Halloween Fest and our **two signature events** – Paddle and Pour, and the Food Truck and Music Fest.
- The Library secured use of the Monroe County Book Bike – so we now have **pop-up book availability around Town.**
- And for this year we celebrated the **200th anniversary of the Erie Canal** reaching Pittsford with a series of programs and events throughout August.

Infrastructure

- We just began work on a **new outdoor pavilion at the Community Center**, for which we won a State grant. We'll complete it by the end of the year.
- We've moved forward this year with the aggressive road repaving schedule we adopted a couple of years ago. This year we milled and **fully repaved 16 neighborhood streets and performed preventive maintenance on 52 others** by resurfacing them.
- We've moved forward with our sidewalk program. We recently **completed Phase 1 of the French Road sidewalk, finished a new sidewalk on Stone Road**, replaced the decayed asphalt sidewalk on **Washington Road** with a proper concrete pathway, and are now doing the same with the asphalt sidewalk on **South Main Street.**
- **We finally talked the State into properly repaving** East Avenue, North and South Main Streets from St. John Fisher College to south of the Village, and into doing the same for Route 31 from the Village Bridge at the railroad tracks, past the Post Office and onto the 490 intersection.
- Town crews have **repaired culverts on Brickston Drive and Colonial Parkway.** The **complete relining of the Alpine Drive sewers** will also be completed this year.

Parks and Trails

- **Four new regulation pickleball courts** at Thornell Farm Park
- **New outfield fencing and bleachers** at Farm View Park
- **Reconstruction of a lengthy segment of the Auburn Trail**, improving public access to its entire length

- **A new handicapped-accessible kayak launch on the Canal Path** that everyone can use, including seniors and people with limited mobility
- And for good measure we put in **another bike fix-it station** by the kayak launch

Library Improvements

- Elimination of overdue fines for youth and teen materials
- Another self-checkout kiosk
- New touch screen displays
- Facility maintenance and updates

Technology Improvements

- Assessing and upgrading security, compliance and software
- Staff training
- More Apple products available for our residents to use

Environmental Stability

- Last year I reported how the Town had started working toward certification as a **Climate Smart Community.** We got it a couple of months ago. This now opens more grant funding opportunities.
- We've launched the **HeatSmart Pittsford campaign**, working with HeatSmart Monroe and Color Pittsford Green to promote energy-efficient heating and cooling options.
- We retain designation as a **Clean Energy Community** that we earned in 2017.
- We applied for a grant for a **third electrical vehicle charging station.**
- We're carrying on our **Food Composting program** at the Community Center.
- And, along these lines, over the past year we've **strengthened collaborations with volunteer community groups.** Working with Color Pittsford Green, we just completed a Bird Harbor at Great Embankment Park. A citizens' group dedicated to the Deblase Open Space in southeast Pittsford recently worked with the Town to clear invasive species and to plant native species in their place.
- We worked with members of the Women's Club of Pittsford, who **planted 1,500 daffodil bulbs of about 18 different varieties** at the Town's Daffodil Meadow on Thornell Road.

Financial Management

- **The Town maintains its Triple-A Credit Rating.** This continues to save money for our taxpayers. Triple-A is the highest credit rating possible. It's more than a report card on management of our municipal finances. It protects taxpayers by keeping down the rate of interest we pay on Town bonds, for such things as the Greenprint, the renovations to our Spiegel Community Center and to the Library, and our improvements to Athletic Fields and parks.

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- **Pittsford remains the only Town of its size in the United States to hold this perfect Triple-A credit rating.** We're the only Town in New York north of Westchester and Putnam counties to have it. Because of it we pay less for bond financing of municipal improvements than residents of any other place in upstate New York – and any other place of our size in the country.
- The State Comptroller once again has designated the **Pittsford Town government as free from fiscal stress.**

There's more I could discuss, but I hope this gives you some idea of the progress and change – and continual improvement – we're accomplishing for Pittsford.

What's Next

Looking ahead a bit, you'll see the Town:

- **Improving the vacant lot at the North Main Street entrance to the Library parking lot.** We've planted a sapling cultivated from the old Copper Beech tree on State Street near Hungry's. With new landscaping we'll make it Copper Beech Park 2.0, a lovely spot to relax and visit with friends. And don't worry – Charlie will still be selling hot dogs there.
- **Construct a new sidewalk along Thornell and Mendon roads.** The Town won a State grant to fund this project. It will fill the gap between existing walkways, making it safer for students to walk to Pittsford Mendon High School and Thornell Road Elementary School, and for all pedestrians. This sidewalk will make it easier and safer to walk to Thornell Farm Park, the Town's most active park. Once completed, it will provide a contiguous and safe walkway from the southeast corner of the Town all the way into the Pittsford Village.
- **Completing the next phase of the French Road sidewalk,** building it eastward to the eastern entrance to Winding Road as the next phase.
- **Enhancing traffic and pedestrian safety** and speeding control.
- **Environmental improvements** and more native plantings.
- Continuing our **stepped-up program of repaving neighborhood streets.**

As I review these projects and initiatives of the past year I recall as well some of the many changes we've made just since I turned up at Town Hall. We've put in new athletic fields, built new playgrounds, renovated the Community Center, done extensive sidewalk projects, renovated our trail system, stepped up repaving streets, completed nearly countless projects for environmental health. Pretty much, it's been nothing *but* change. And that was certainly true going back years before my time as Supervisor.

Because that's what it takes to keep the essentials the same: the aspects of our Town we want to keep, that we don't want to lose.

An historian once referred to the endurance over time of a leading cultural institution, explaining the secret as this: That ***it must always keep changing. And must always remain the same.***

That observation may well contain some truth that helps us understand what we need to do, what we do, and what we need to keep doing, in order to fulfill your heartfelt wish that we "please don't change Pittsford."

We Pittsford residents actually want and expect a lot of change. Change that improves amenities and services and, generally, the quality of life we associate with the Town. The improvements and changes we pursue at Town Hall support that quality of life. They support the nature of the life and experience that people seek here. They nurture and strengthen each element in that bundle of attributes that collectively define the community we call home.

Make all the changes you need, say Pittsford's residents, to sustain our community's character. Sustain its aesthetic. Sustain the legacies of its history. Its architecture. Its open countryside. Its vitality. Sustain engagement and commitment of its citizens. Sustain that personal relationship each of us feels toward Pittsford. What it is. What we hope it will ever remain. And what we, for our part in Town government, will continue to nurture, to promote and to support.

As always, among the resources most useful to me in carrying out my duties as Town Supervisor are the advice, comments and ideas of you, our residents. I keep an open door at Town Hall and welcome visits from residents during regular business hours Monday through Friday. I'm available by phone at **248-6220** and by email at **wsmith@townofpittsford.org**. Or stop by my monthly Supervisor's Open House at the Library – dates are listed in the Town's weekly eNewsletter.

Leaf Collection Is Under Way

Town of Pittsford crews currently are busy collecting leaves. Leaf crews collect from each neighborhood approximately every three weeks. See our online leaf collection app for the real-time schedule at <https://gis.townofpittsford.org/LeafCollection>. Bagged and containerized debris collection will continue on your regular pick-up day until the end of the week of December 6. See the Yard Debris Collection Day interactive map at <https://gis.townofpittsford.org/YardDebris>.

After the week of December 6, crews will continue to pick up loose leaves, loose brush and branches but not on a set schedule. Find complete information about our yard debris and leaf collection services at www.townofpittsford.org/leaf-collection.



Fall Fest Fun!



Everyone had a great time at our Main Street Food Truck and Music Fest, and our Family Halloween Fest!

Town Historian Audrey Johnson Honored

Congratulations to Pittsford Town and Village Historian Audrey Johnson - honored with the Julia Reinstein Career Achievement Award by the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York. Audrey's wealth of knowledge, her commitment to preserving and sharing our history and her love of our community have been the hallmarks of her service to Pittsford for more than 43 years. Many thanks Audrey for all you've done, and for all you continue to do, for Pittsford. Well deserved!

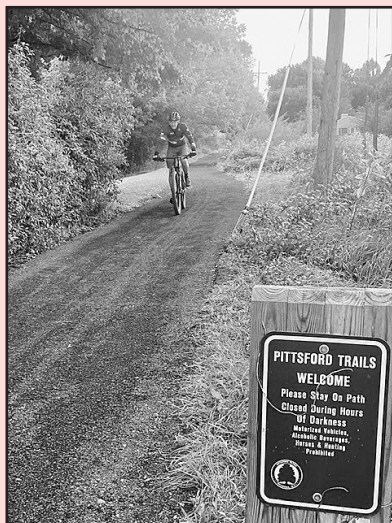


GAHWNY Executive Council Chair and Wyoming County Historian Cindy Amrhein presented the Julia Reinstein Career Achievement Award to Pittsford Town and Village Historian Audrey Maxfield Johnson.

No Surprise: Pittsford Named One of Upstate's 20 Best Places

Travel + Leisure magazine recently included Pittsford in its list of **20 Best Places to Visit in Upstate New York**. It comes as no surprise to us, but it's always nice when others recognize the history, scenic beauty, canalside amenities, parks and other positive attributes of our community!

TRAVEL+LEISURE



Auburn Trail Improvements

Members of the Town's Parks Department have been busy all season improving and maintaining our system of trails. On the Auburn Trail in the southeast part of Town, our crews have widened the trail and renewed its surface, making biking, hiking and walking that much more enjoyable. As usual, our trail maintenance continues for as long as the weather permits.



Congratulations to Pittsford resident Hal Lusk – his Holstein cow Unix won first prize at the New York State Fair! Hal has been showing cattle for over 60 years – first as a dairy farmer and now as a hobby. Hal's farming roots in Pittsford run deep – members of the Lusk family first settled in Pittsford in 1788. Their history is another wonderful example of the proud farming tradition in Pittsford.



Completed Sidewalk Projects

We completed several significant sidewalk projects this year. In October we finished Phase 1 of the new French Road sidewalk. When we complete Phase 2 next year we'll have a complete concrete pathway along French Road from Monroe Avenue to the eastern entrance of Winding Road. Phase 3 will carry the sidewalk to North Main Street. With another new sidewalk we connected Stonebridge Lane with the sidewalk at the intersection of Stone and Tobey Roads. Along Washington Road, from the Pittsford Cemetery entrance to Cranswick Lane, we completely replaced the deteriorating asphalt walkway with a new concrete sidewalk. We're doing the same on South Main Street. The Town is committed to our aggressive program of installing new sidewalks. Accessibility represents an important part of the plan – all of our new sidewalks comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Pedestrian Safety and Calming Traffic

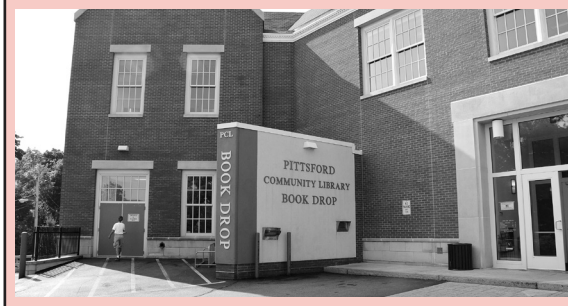
Speed limit lowered to 25mph on neighborhood roads

The Town recently lowered the speed limit on neighborhood streets under Town jurisdiction from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. **Please note the law only affects Town-controlled streets;** it does not affect State or County roads in Pittsford. The Town has made multiple requests to the State Department of Transportation asking the State to lower the speed limit on Clover Street to 45 mph between Calkins Road and Pond Road in Mendon Ponds Park. This is the vicinity of a recent fatal motorcycle accident. We support a recent resident-organized petition made to the State DOT requesting the same action.

Many thanks to the residents who attended our recent public forum on traffic safety held in collaboration with the Pittsford School District and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Those who participated and those who sent in comments provided valuable information about the conditions in their neighborhoods regarding traffic. Many offered recommendations to address problems. Working with residents, we'll continue seeking ways to address speeding, ignoring stop signs, crosswalk safety and related matters.

Return Items Any Time with the Library Book Drop

The Pittsford Community Library has both a walk-up and a drive-up book drop drawer at the back entrance of the building. So it's easy to return books and other Library materials any time! The area in front of the drive-up book drop is convenient for dropping off books via the drop drawer. Please be considerate and don't use the spot for parking or dropping off/picking up people, as cars parked or waiting in the area block the book drop drawer.



Field Improvements Support Youth Baseball and Softball

In support of girls and boys youth sports programs, the Town has completed improvements to the softball and baseball fields at Farm View Park. Town crews laid down clay for field warning tracks and built an outfield fence and put in foul poles, fence toppers and additional bleachers for the softball fields. These upgrades improve the experience for all of our young players and their families. Supporting and building up our youth sport programs for girls is especially important for Pittsford families and has been an important goal for the Town as well. The improvements bring our softball fields up to regulation standards – we can now host tournaments and can accommodate more games for years to come!



Panther Pals Child Watch Goes to the Dogs!

Our Pittsford Recreation “Panther Pals” Child Watch program participants welcomed some special visitors recently! Many thanks to Paul and Linda from RocDog Therapy Dogs – and to Jonah, Twinkle and Sparkle! – for stopping by. Panther Pals gives children ages 2-5 a chance to meet new friends and enjoy arts & crafts, dance, music and creative play. Held at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, the program is offered Monday - Friday from 9:00am - noon. For more details, see our online program information at www.townofpittsford.org/recreation, contact Amanda at apoulin@townofpittsford.org or call the Community Center at **248-6280**.

Grants Update – Funding Town Projects at No Cost to Taxpayers

To date in 2022, the Town has received grant funding totaling \$747,849 to fund the following projects:

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant from the NYS Department of Transportation to fund a new **ADA-compliant sidewalk along Thornell and Mendon roads**.
- Community Block Grant to fund **Community Center upgrades**, including the purchase of a **video conferencing system** in our Senior Center, a **Senior Center van**, and construction of an **outdoor pavilion**.
- NYS DEC “Buffer in a Bag” program grant which provided 25 free native trees and shrub seedlings for creek and **stream bank stabilization projects**, including plantings along Irondequoit Creek.
- NYS DEC grant in support of **planting seven tree saplings at Great Embankment Park** in honor of the Town’s annual Arbor Day celebration.
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor grant to **purchase reusable water bottles with promotional materials** to promote the canal trail, the Town’s Erie Canal Nature Preserve and Town canalside concerts.
- The Town has also applied for a grant to fund a third **Electric Vehicle Charging station**.



Sustainability Update

Town-Citizen Partnerships Help our Environment

Caring and engaged community members represent the true spirit of civic commitment. Working together, we can have the most impact. That impact is apparent in our sustainability initiatives. Most recently:

- Dedicated volunteers from **Color Pittsford Green** came out to **Great Embankment Park** to help the Town create a “**Bird Harbor**” by planting a native shrub and perennial garden that will provide food and shelter to migrating birds and to those who make their home at the park.
- Another group of committed **community volunteers**, led by resident Laurie Konte, gathered **at the Deblase Open Space to plant native species** in the area that recently was cleared of invasive Autumn Olive bushes.
- An industrious group from the **Women’s Club of Pittsford**, led by Toni Amico, brought new life to the **Daffodil Meadow**. They planted **1,500 daffodil bulbs** of about 18 different varieties!

The volunteers researched and suggested plants and shrubs for new planting, designed the planting layouts, then recruited additional volunteers to complete the plantings at the parks. Many thanks to all involved!



Plans for Copper Beech Pocket Park

We’re celebrating the Town’s original Copper Beech tree with a new pocket park on South Main Street – the location where we planted the first clone of the original Copper Beech tree. Plans for the new park include a walkway to the original Copper Beech Park. The design includes a seating area with cafe tables and game tables, native species landscaping, and a food vendor area. The Town will pay for the project with funds obtained from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We expect to begin work next spring.



Soccer Fields Dedicated to Honor Bill Beach

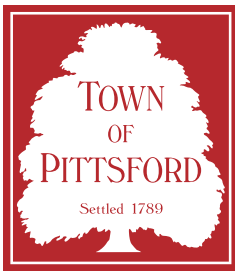


On August 20, 2022 the Town rededicated the soccer fields at Great Embankment Park in honor of Bill Beach. Mr. Beach helped found what became the Pittsford Mustangs Soccer Club. His caring efforts have helped build skills, develop character

and instill the importance of fair play and sportsmanship in thousands of boys and girls over the years.

Town Supervisor Bill Smith presented Mr. Beach with a Town Resolution of Commendation in honor of his leadership of youth soccer in Pittsford – a dedicated effort that has spanned over 40 years!

Thank you, Bill Beach for all you’ve done to foster sportsmanship, youth development, and healthy activity in Pittsford and beyond. The Bill Beach Fields represent a permanent commemoration of your years of work and your commitment to our community’s young people.



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GO SOCIAL WITH THE TOWN OF PITTSFORD!

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Seniors Craft Club – a Fun Way to Help Others!

Our Seniors Craft Club is a fun opportunity to get creative, make friends and do something positive for others. Craft Club members make giveaway items for our Senior lunches and some for donation to local charities. The Craft Club meets once a month on Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30am at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. Participants enjoy a light breakfast of pastries, coffee and tea, and great company. If you or someone you know enjoys making crafts, or would like to learn how, join our seniors and get crafting! For more information, stop by the Senior Programs office at the Community Center or call **248-6235**.

Town crews recently installed the Town's third Bike Fix-It station, conveniently located on the Canal path just west of the Monroe Avenue bridge. It's close to our newly installed handicapped-accessible kayak launch. In addition to the air pump, each fix-it station has a full complement of tools to repair flats and make adjustments to bikes and jogging strollers.

