



News & Reviews

December 20,
2023

Town of Pittsford - a Clean
Energy and Climate Smart
Community

*See listings below for
Upcoming Activities, Town Board Meetings & Community Meetings*

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOURS FOR TOWN FACILITIES

In observance of the **Christmas holiday**, Town Hall will close at 12:00pm on Friday, 12/22 and all Town offices (including Town Hall and the Parks, Sewer, and Highway departments), will be closed on Monday, 12/25. All offices will reopen on Tuesday, 12/26.

The Spiegel Pittsford Community Center will be closed on Sunday, 12/24 and Monday, 12/25. The Community Center will be open 8:00am-6:00pm from 12/26 through 12/29 and will resume regular hours on Saturday, 12/30 (8:00am-8:00pm).

The Pittsford Community Library will be open Saturday, 12/23, from 10:00am-5:00pm and will be closed all day Sunday, 12/24 and Monday, 12/25. The Library will be open regular hours (9:00am-8:00pm) on Tuesday, 12/26.

Pittsford Town Court will be closed Monday, 12/25.

In observance of the **New Year's holiday** Town Hall will close at 1:00pm on Friday, 12/29 and all Town offices (including Town Hall, Town Court, and the Parks, Sewer, and Highway departments) will be closed on Monday, 1/1/24.

The Spiegel Pittsford Community Center will be closed on Sunday 12/31 and Monday, 1/1/24. They will resume regular hours on Tuesday, 1/2/24 (8:00am-9:00pm).

The Pittsford Community Library will be closed on Sunday, 12/31 and Monday, 1/1/24, and will resume regular hours (9:00am – 8:00pm) on Tuesday, 1/2/2024

In case of an emergency requiring Town of Pittsford services during holiday closures, please call (585) 248-6212.

We wish all a happy and safe holiday season!





TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY

Christmas can be a time of joy, celebration and togetherness. Unfortunately, the season also brings about an increase in physical injuries and stress. Keep the following tips in mind to hold misfortune at bay, and to enjoy a cheerful holiday.

Take it Easy. Don't let an endless to-do list ruin your holiday spirit. Prioritize items by importance, making sure you look after *yourself* as much as anything else. Exercise, adequate sleep, and reaching out to others for support help stave off the Christmas blues.

Safety in the Kitchen. Follow food safety guidelines to avoid foodborne illnesses when preparing holiday meals. Watch children and pets around hot stoves. Have a fire extinguisher nearby and make sure everyone in your household knows how to use it.

Go Easy on the alcohol. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), last year there were 1,133 highway deaths between Christmas and New Year. Drunk drivers caused a large percentage of them. Use alcohol responsibly. Know your limits. Don't become a statistic – or turn someone else into one.

Safety from Fire: Be careful with candles, lights, and fireplaces to prevent accidents or fires. Make sure to water your tree daily. Check for and fix broken bulbs. **Do not place your tree near heat sources**, including heat vents, space heaters, and fireplaces. Turn off Christmas tree lights at night and when you leave the house. **Never leave a candle unattended.**

Prevent falls: According to the [United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](#), most physical injuries throughout December are caused by falls, many of which are associated with ladders people use to put up and take down decorations. Make sure your ladder is secure, dry, and that you have a second person on hand to hold it steady. Wear shoes with non-slip soles to prevent slipping.

Create cherished memories this season by staying mindful, taking care of yourself and your loved ones, and embracing the spirit of the season responsibly.

2024 TOWN & COUNTY PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Reminder: for those interested in pre-payment, the Tax Office will be closing at 1:00pm on Friday, December 29. Please follow directions outlined below.



Town of Pittsford property owners not in escrow will receive their 2024 Town & County tax bills in the mail after January 1, 2024. Property tax bills may also be obtained through the Monroe County Real Property Portal on or after December 29, 2023. Click the link for [step-by-step directions](#) on how to access the information that way.

Important Tax Collection Dates:

January 1 – First day of tax collection. Legally, we cannot accept any payments prior.

February 10 – Full payment or first installment is due.

February 28 – Second installment is due.

March 31 – Third installment is due.

April 30 – Fourth installment is due.

If you are considering prepayment of your 2024 Town and County taxes, we recommend consulting with your accountant to determine if prepayment would be beneficial to you under the federal and state tax laws in effect. Please notify the tax office via email at townclerk@townofpittsford.org or by phone, 585-248-6215 if you will be mailing in a prepayment with a U.S. postmark of December 30, 2023, so that you are correctly receipted for your payment. Click the link for [details on how to submit your prepayment and how to access your tax bill online](#).



WINTER BREAK FUN CAMP DECEMBER 26-29

Looking for something fun and exciting for your child to do over the holiday break? Enroll them in our **December Fun Camp – Spirit Week!** to be held at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. Camp days will be full of fun activities and games for ages 5 - 13 to enjoy. Arts and crafts, outdoor play, time in our gym, and a field trip to Bill Gray's Ice Complex are just a few of the activities that will take place. Each day

there will be a dress up theme! Participants are grouped by age to enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities designed to keep them active and engaged.

December Fun Camp takes place **Tuesday, 12/26 through Friday, 12/29 from 8:30am-5:30pm**. [Register online](#) on the Town of Pittsford website or in person at the Community Center. December Fun Camp takes place at the [Spiegel Pittsford Community Center](#) (35 Lincoln Avenue). **Register early as this program fills quickly!** For more information about Fun Camp, contact Amanda at 248-6283.

TOWN VOLUNTEER BOARDS

Town of Pittsford Volunteer Boards include Pittsford residents with a variety of skills and backgrounds. The Town accepts Volunteer Board applications on an ongoing basis to fill vacancies as they occur. Town Volunteer Boards assist with the various functions of Town government and in many cases make decisions affecting key issues of importance to Pittsford's success as a community. Our Volunteer Boards include:

- Assessment Review Board
- Design Review and Historic Preservation Board
- Environmental Board
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals



If you are a Pittsford resident and interested in serving on one of our Volunteer Boards please send a resume, and a cover letter that indicates which board you are interested in, to:

For complete information about each board's responsibilities and board member term lengths, click this link to [Town citizen volunteer board information](#) or visit the "Volunteer Boards" link under the "Government" tab on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org.



"'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" WITH MRS. CLAUS

Mrs. Claus has created some special messages for all – have you seen them yet? She [presents on video the classic holiday poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas"](#) recorded with a little help from her friends at Historic Pittsford! More commonly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," this treasured classic was first published in 1823 and is still a lovely way to celebrate the season. You can find this special presentation on the Historic Pittsford website at <https://www.historicpittsford.com/video> (scroll down to see it).

On the Historic Pittsford website, you'll also find Mrs. Claus's reading of "Red and Lulu" – a wonderful Christmas story by Matt Tavares about two determined little cardinals and the true meaning of the holiday season. It's one of Mrs. Claus's favorites!

Former Pittsford Town and Village Historian Audrey Johnson is a member of the [Historic Pittsford](#) Board and is a good friend of Mrs. Claus. We know she was a big help with these videos!

THE STORY OF RICHARD BROOKINS, THE AMERICAN ST. NICK

Town program can be viewed on demand.

We were so fortunate to host Pittsford resident the late Richard Brookins – the American St. Nick – at the Senior Center in 2015. Mr. Brookins discussed his experience as "the American St. Nick" when, as a young soldier in 1944, he agreed to play St. Nicholas and bring some holiday cheer to the residents of a small war-ravaged town in Luxembourg just liberated by his Army infantry unit from four years of Nazi occupation.



The village of Wiltz has been celebrating his act of kindness annually ever since – unknown to Mr. Brookins until 33 years later when he was asked to come back for a visit.

The entire heartwarming story was captured in an internationally released documentary film and in a book by author Peter Lion. The Town produced a local program about Mr. Brookins, including an interview with him and a discussion by Peter Lion. We're airing it on the Town's TV-12 cable access channel 1303 and you can [watch the Richard Brookins – the American St. Nick story on demand here](#).

After nearly five years of Nazi occupation the townspeople of Wiltz were eager to celebrate St. Nicholas Day in early December of 1944 – a hundreds-of-years-old tradition that had been forbidden during the occupation – but did not have the means to do so.

The members of the 112th Signal Company organized a Christmas party and with the help of their fellow soldiers in the 28th Infantry gave the town a celebration complete with a visit from St. Nicholas – portrayed by the 22-year-old soldier Dick Brookins. It was a day the people of Wiltz vowed never to forget, and they continue to remember and honor their “American St. Nick” with heartwarming affection and appreciation.

If you’d like to learn more about Mr. Brookins and about the book Mr. Lion wrote capturing the wonderful story of Mr. Brookins as the American St. Nick, visit www.americanstnick.com.



SUPERVISOR SMITH SHARES “THE MAN BEHIND A CHRISTMAS STORY”

Town Supervisor Bill Smith shares his enthusiasm and lifelong admiration for author Jean Sheppard in a video [“The Man Behind A Christmas Story.”](#) Learn about this prolific American storyteller, humorist, radio and TV personality, writer, and actor whose

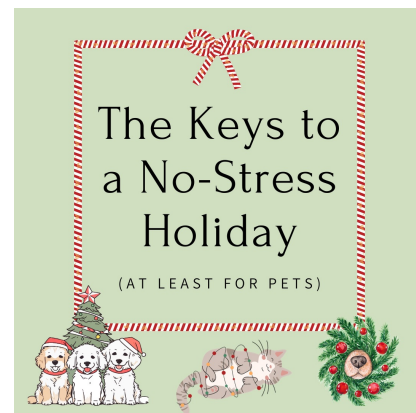
books and radio stories led to the creation of this celebrated holiday movie classic. Sheppard’s writing and unmistakable voice as narrator brings to life the Christmas tribulations of 9-year-old Ralphie, who longs for a Red Ryder BB gun and learns important life lessons – including, never touch your tongue to a frozen flagpole! View Supervisor Smith’s [video here](#) to learn more about the story behind the story.

LOLLYPOP FARM’S ADVICE FOR A NO-STRESS HOLIDAY WITH YOUR PETS

Has your pet noticed the increase in activity that comes with the season? Are they responding in weird and wacky ways? The holidays can be stressful for pets, which in turn, can be stressful for you. According to [Lollypop Farm](#), every year they receive calls from pet owners “whose animals behaved unexpectedly during holiday festivities.” Thankfully, they Lollypop Farm has provided some tips to help make sure both you AND your pets have a safe and happy holiday. These include:

- Letting your guests know what the rules are for your pets
- Paying attention to your pet's body language
- Giving your pet a safe space to relax during gatherings

Find the [full details in their online article here](#)! Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester, has been helping animals and people since 1873. Find out more about Lollypop Farm by visiting www.lollypop.org.



DANCE PARTY FOR LITTLE ONES OFFERED AT LIBRARY ON 12/27



Little ones and their caregivers can celebrate the year's end with a super fun dance party at the Pittsford Community Library! Get your wiggles on as you dance to happy music with Miss Vinise and Miss Sarah! This dance party is for ages 0-5 and takes place on Wednesday, December 27 in the Fisher Meeting Room at the Library. No registration required.

The [Pittsford Community Library](#) is located at 24 State Street. Call (585) 248-6275 for more information or send an email to PCL@libraryweb.org.

REMINDERS

WOMEN'S CLUB OF PITTSFORD GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 31

The Women's Club of Pittsford offers endowment grants to charitable organizations and is accepting grant applications through December 31, 2023. Grants must request monetary support for a specific project and cannot help fund salaries, stipends for volunteers, or operating expenses.



Those interested in applying for a grant [can fill out a grant application online](#) or [download a print application](#) and return it by mail to the Women's Club of Pittsford by December 31, 2023. Please include a copy of the letter from the IRS advising that your organization has 501(c)(3) status. The Women's Club of Pittsford is unable to support organization that do not send verification of 501(c)(3) status. The Women's Club will notify grant recipients in May.

[The Women's Club of Pittsford](#) is a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). They are a local, non-profit, voluntary organization that offers opportunities to participate in community service projects, educational programs, fundraising efforts, and social activities. Since 1984, the Women's Club of Pittsford has contributed over \$400,000 to Greater Rochester Area organizations. Contact Bev Pierson, president of the WCOP, at piersonbjm@gmail.com with any questions about the Club or the grant-application process.



PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

This holiday season, the Pittsford Food Cupboard is requesting items to provide for **holiday brunches**, including corned beef hash, specialty jams, coffee, hot cocoa, and syrup. They're collecting for **holiday baking needs** too – such as muffin mix, sugar cookie mix, white sugar, brown sugar, chocolate chips, sprinkles, vanilla, almond, and lemon flavoring. **They are especially in need of Wegmans**

and Target reusable shopping bags.

The PFC also needs beets, coconut milk, spinach, olives, refried beans, taco shells, jelly/jam, spam, sardines, beef stew, Vienna sausage, any condiments, and **dog and cat food**. The Cupboard is completely out of dog and cat food!

Please, check your pantries or add an item or two to your shopping cart when you are out and about if you can – your donation can make the holidays brighter for a family in need.

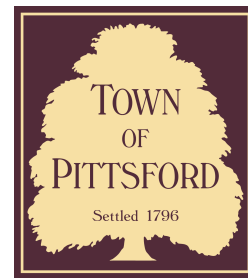
Items the PFC DOES NOT currently need include: flour, oil, pasts, corn, and any type of canned beans (except refried).

You can drop off items Monday - Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm in the collection bin in the front foyer. The Pittsford Food Cupboard is located at 3800 Monroe Avenue, Door #26.

[The Pittsford Food Cupboard](#) is a nonprofit organization serving Pittsford, East Rochester, Penfield, Brighton, Mendon, Honeoye Falls, and parts of the City of Rochester. This past year, the PFC provided food supplies to over 4,999 households! Learn more about volunteering [here](#). Call (585)264-9860 or email pittfoodcup14534@gmail.com for more information on how to support families in need.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS ARE STREAMING LIVE

Pittsford Town Board meetings are being streamed live; the feed is accessible on any device. Town Board is typically held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at Town Hall. See www.townofpittsford.org/calendar for meeting dates. To view the livestream, click the [Town Board Meeting live streaming link](#) when the meeting begins. This link can also be found on page two of the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda is posted on the Town's [minutes and agendas page](#) at least two days prior to the meeting. Please note: if you try to log in too early (before the meeting feed is live) you will see an error message; refresh your screen just prior to or at 6:00pm when the board meeting starts and you will be able to view the meeting. As always, ASL interpretation is provided for every Town Board meeting.



ASL INTERPRETER ALWAYS AVAILABLE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Town of Pittsford has an American Sign Language interpreter available at every Pittsford Town Board meeting, to interpret for those who need this service. Those who can't attend a Town Board meeting in person but are planning to watch the meeting's live stream can confirm their need for the interpreter by emailing comments@townofpittsford.org. Requests can be made in advance or can be emailed through the first ten minutes of the meeting. An on-demand Town Board meeting video with closed captioning will be available within 48 hours of the meeting; visit www.townofpittsford.org/channel12 and use the On-Demand links to view previously recorded meetings.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN PITTSFORD

- [Town of Pittsford Zoning Code Update](#) – comments made by Town of Pittsford stakeholders via email and mail being accepted; access the Comprehensive Plan, the Active Transportation Plan, the project timeline, a link to the Town's current Zoning Code, and other informational materials, on the **Zoning Code Update website** at www.townofpittsford.org/zoningupdate. Comments can be made to zoningupdate@townofpittsford.org or mailed to Doug DeRue, Town of Pittsford, 11 South Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534; please indicate whether you are a Town or Village resident.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD BOARD MEETINGS

- Planning Board, Monday, 12/25 – **NO MEETING** due to Christmas holiday

COMMUNITY MEETINGS CALENDAR

- [American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899](#) Tuesday morning breakfast and socializing, every Tuesday, 8:00-10:00am, Post 899, Pittsford Village Hall lower level, 21 North Main Street; open to all – meet and socialize with veterans; no charge but donations accepted. Eligible veterans welcome to join the Post; click this link for [membership information](#) or visit the [Rayson-Miller Post website](#)
- [Pittsford Rotary Club](#), Wednesdays (weekly), 7:00am, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street; meetings also can be accessed live via Zoom - check the Pittsford Rotary Facebook page for virtual meeting details
- [Women's Club of Pittsford](#) - charitable organization serving the community through service projects and civic improvement; membership is open to any woman living in Pittsford or the surrounding areas, new members always welcome! Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of the month, September through June, at 6:00pm at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue; Visit the website at <https://www.womensclubofpittsford.org> for more information
- [Pittsford Art Group](#) conducts monthly member meetings (in person and online) featuring a guest artist; new members are welcome! The PAG also hosts juried and non-juried shows and displays artwork at various locations throughout Pittsford. For further information or to become a member, please visit www.pittsfordartgroup.com and fill out a [Contact Us](#) form.

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TV-12 PITTSFORD CABLE CHANNEL 1303 is on seven days a week.
Find the [current schedule here](#).

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