

## From the Supervisor

### A Successful Year for a Successful Community

Pittsford has closed out 2023 at the top of its game. At year-end:

- **Tax Rate:** \$3.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Despite inflation, no increase from the prior year and 9% below the rate in 2018, following successive annual tax cuts in my proposed budgets.
- **Comptroller’s Fiscal Report for Pittsford:** Perfect. No fiscal stress whatsoever.
- **Credit Rating:** Perfect. Triple-A. The only town of our size in the U.S. to have it.
- **Reputation:** Among the highest in the nation – one of the top 10 most desired places in the country for people relocating, according to Realtor.com.
- **Services:** A broader range of municipal services than any other Monroe County town.

As ever, the Town government won’t rest on its laurels. I’ll continue to pursue the policies that created these successes and can create more, and to push for *continual improvement* – for improvements carrying forward and enhancing our way of life, deriving from the wishes of the broad consensus of our community.

### Thanks to Our Town Employees

Success begins with the right policies. Yet policies go no further than good intentions, or words on paper, without the right people to carry them out.

Pittsford is fortunate to have throughout Town Hall and at every level, in every operational department, a staff of people with the ability, work ethic and dedication to serve our residents at the highest level.

Some accomplishments of the year past:

Our **Highway Department** repaved and repaired **14 miles of Town roads**. We **completed Phase 2 of the French Road sidewalk project**, extending it eastward toward the Village, from the Theology School to the eastern entrance to Winding Road.

As we do each year, we’ve **collected and processed tens of thousands of cubic feet of yard debris and leaves for recycling** into the mulch that we offer residents for free. A yard debris and leaf pickup program not matched, even closely, by any other town in our area.

Our **Sewer Department** cleaned and flushed **20 miles of sanitary sewer lines**. Sewer personnel **cleaned and maintained 12 retention ponds**. They **relined** the entire sanitary sewer system in the East Avenue Manor subdivision, **updated pump stations** throughout the Town and cleaned and repaired more than **150 catch basins**.

Our **Parks Department** opened **four additional miles of Town trails**, adding new lineage and reconstructing previously impassable sections. Parks staff built a **new pavilion at Spiegel Community Center**. Due to the unusually wet summer, Parks staff spent more time in 2023 than in any other year of recent

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Bill Smith  
Town Supervisor

### Inside:

- Budget 2024: No Tax Increase
- The Eclipse is Coming!
- Emergency Closures Info
- Town Board for 2024–25
- Town Staff Changes
- Historian Audrey Johnson Retires
- Remembering Dolores DeCoste
- Garden Club Members Wanted

## Emergency Closings



In case of severe weather or other emergencies, you’ll find information about Town facility closings and program cancellations on the Town’s website [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org), on the Town of Pittsford’s Facebook page [pittsfordtown1789](https://www.facebook.com/pittsfordtown1789) and on its X (formerly Twitter) feed [@pittsfordtown](https://twitter.com/pittsfordtown). You also can check local television and radio stations and Pittsford’s Cable TV 12 Channel 1303 government access station for updates. TV-12 Channel 1303 announcements can be viewed live anytime on the TV-12 Channel 1303 page [www.townofpittsford.org/channel12](http://www.townofpittsford.org/channel12).

## From the Supervisor

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memory mowing and caring for the 3,000 acres of grounds the Town maintains.

We've carried forward our commitment to **sustainability and the environment**. Aware of our reputation in this area, County Executive Adam Bello chose Pittsford as the County's municipal partner for a new residential **Food Scraps Recycling program**. Five hundred Pittsford households are participating. In 2023 the Town expanded its **pollinator gardens** on Town lands. Building on that success, in 2023 the Town launched our **Pollinator Pathways program** to encourage people to plant pollinator gardens in their own yards.

We've expanded our **Refuse District program**, which provides substantially reduced rates for garbage collections, while cutting down garbage truck traffic to once each week.

Pittsford won State certification as a Clean Energy Community in 2017 and as a Climate Smart Community in 2022. In 2023 we kicked off work on a **Climate Action Plan**, working with the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council and our own Town Environmental Board. Starting that work we found ourselves well ahead of the game, since Pittsford already has accomplished a great deal of what the State requires in a climate action plan. As I've noted before, we don't just plan. We act.

Special thanks to Angel Martinez, our Director of Information Technology. With his staff Angel completed **major upgrades** in 2023 that **reduced by 25% the annual cost of the Town's cybersecurity insurance**. A Security Event Management system alerts us immediately about network intrusions. Next-Generation Antivirus software stops threats to Town systems in real time.

At our **Pittsford Community Library** we've seen **increases in circulation, in door count and program attendance**, driven by the Library's excellent **new programs**, by our **expansion of Saturday hours in summer** and by **broadened outreach**. The new **Library Book Bike**, funded by Friends of the Library permits **outdoor pop-up book borrowing** around the Village and Town. Our new **Little Free Library** at the Community Center playground encourages reading for all ages.

Pittsford's **Recreation programs** continue to flourish. We offer familiar favorites and new programs – such as my own “How to Brew Beer” course that I taught last fall – and other free family programs and activities. We launched our **Panther Pals preschool program** for ages 2-5 years and increased program offerings for our **community-based Special Olympics Training Club**, the “**Pittsford Wreckers**.” Our **Senior Citizens Center** remains as vital and active as ever, with a full complement of well-

attended programs.

Community events included our **PGA Family Night** in conjunction with the PGA Championship in Pittsford and of course our two summer “bookend” celebrations, with **Paddle and Pour's** new location on the Main Street Bridge proving to be a big hit and with September's **Food Truck and Music Fest**. The Town's **Friday evening Canalside concerts** enjoy enduring popularity. The youngest Pittsford residents continued to enjoy our outdoor **Concerts for Kids** at the Spiegel Community Center, our **Family Outdoor Movies** and the traditional **Family Halloween Fest**.

To our staff – I thank you all. It is you who help make Pittsford a thriving, welcoming community of character.

### A Delightful Anomaly

In a sense – a good one – we might even think of Pittsford as something of an anomaly. In a State that consistently loses population, Pittsford remains a place where people want to move **to**, not away from.

We're proud of our school system, which contributes so greatly to the Town's appeal. There are other places with great school systems, too. Yet Pittsford remains unique in its appeal and its success: the Town's **perfect credit rating**, its **zero fiscal stress rating** from the State Comptroller, its modest Town Tax rate – just **8 cents of every dollar** you pay in property tax – its environmental leadership including our award-winning **Greenprint** that preserved two-thirds of Pittsford's remaining farmland. All the legacy of wise fiscal policy and municipal governance that puts taxpayers first and has guided our Town for decades. And in recounting these accomplishments I've barely scratched the surface.

**Successful bipartisanship** on our Town Board I'll cite as another characteristically Pittsford quality, anomalous at least in the context of the corrosive and often mindless partisanship that has so degraded our civic discourse at the national and state levels in this country. In recent years Pittsford has had a majority on our Town Board consisting of people of different parties and defined not by partisan labels but by commitment solely to the best interests of the people of the Town and by dedication to the rule of reason. The personnel on the Board have now changed, but I believe the same focus and dedication to reason remain every bit as strongly represented on our Town Board as before.

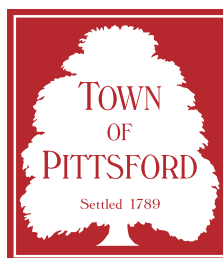
Such is where the Town of Pittsford stands as we move into 2024. With the support of our residents we can continue the success story that our splendid community represents.

*Please let me hear from you! You can reach me at 248-6220 or by email at [wsmith@townofpittsford.org](mailto:wsmith@townofpittsford.org). I maintain an open-door policy at my office, and you can attend my monthly open house at the Library, usually the first Saturday of each month. It's announced on my Bill Smith Pittsford Town Supervisor Facebook page and in the Town E-news.*

## Budget for 2024: No Tax Increase, No Cuts to Services

The Supervisor's proposed Town budget for 2024 was approved by the Town Board in November. The 2024 Town budget holds the Town tax rate flat – with no increase to the tax rate. It continues funding for all of the Town's services and events.

You'll find the 2024 Budget documents and the Supervisor's budget presentation on the Town website at [www.townofpittsford.org/budgets](http://www.townofpittsford.org/budgets). Hard copies are available for viewing at Town Hall. You can watch the Town Board's discussion of the Supervisor's proposed budget at the 10/17/23 Town Board meeting here: <https://www.townofpittsford.org/channel12>.



- ✓ Tax Rate Held Flat
- ✓ Keeps Up with Rising Costs
- ✓ Supports Neighborhoods
- ✓ Maintains Full Services
- ✓ Sustainable

### 2024 Pittsford Town Budget

Bill Smith | Pittsford Town Supervisor

## Audrey Johnson: 44 Years as Town Historian

Audrey Johnson retired in November after 44 years as Town and Village Historian. It's thanks to Audrey that the Town's historical records are properly preserved, organized and accessible. A lifelong Pittsford resident from a family that settled in Pittsford in 1818, Audrey brought to her duties deep, firsthand knowledge of the people, families and events that have shaped Pittsford over the years. Her interviews with significant figures in the Town's history have proven to be one of the most popular offerings on the Town's community-access TV channel and give us an irreplaceable record of the community's history from many who lived through it and helped make it. With Vicki Proffitt, Audrey co-authored *Pittsford – Images of America* published in 2013 by Arcadia Publishing and still commercially available. Above all, Audrey carried out with distinction her core mission as historian: to educate and inspire us all to learn, value and preserve what has made our history and has made our Town what it is.

Audrey has made a tremendous difference for Pittsford through her work, knowledge and dedication, leaving for all the years to come a lasting influence and resource for understanding our history. Our very best wishes to you, Audrey!



*Supervisor Bill Smith presented Town Historian Audrey Johnson with a Town Board commendation upon her retirement.*

## Remembering Dolores DeCoste



Pittsford lost a kind, dedicated and supportive friend with the death in September of Dolores DeCoste, Director of Pittsford's Senior Center since 2013.

We have Dolores to thank for the full range of popular programs that make our Senior Center a success. As well as organizing lunches,

day trips and other events, Dolores connected Senior Center patrons with key support services, including health and wellness programs. She played a central role in the planning that incorporated the Senior Center from an offsite location into our renovated and expanded Spiegel Community Center, allowing us to provide accommodations customized to the needs of our Seniors programs. The new Senior Center opened with the renovated Spiegel building in 2018.

Above all, the many people whose lives Dolores touched, residents and fellow Town employees alike, will remember her selfless purpose and her dedication to building sincere and meaningful relationships. Caring, thoughtful, positive and understanding, Dolores checked in regularly with our Senior Center patrons. Her advice and counsel were welcomed by her Town colleagues as well. She welcomed and sought out conversation – whether offering guidance, encouragement, companionship, or simply the sympathetic ear of a caring listener. Thank you, Dolores, for your compassionate support of our seniors and your dedication to helping others. Your efforts and your kindness made a lasting, beneficial influence on so many. We remember you with fondness and gratitude.



## Town Board Members Sworn In

Our new and re-elected Town Board members were sworn in at the January 4 Pittsford Town Board meeting. Welcome and congratulations to Naveen Havannavar as a new Town Board member.

*Pictured at right: Councilmember Naveen Havannavar, Deputy Town Supervisor Kim Taylor, Town Supervisor Bill Smith, Councilmember Stephanie Townsend and Councilmember Cathy Koshykar.*



## Recent Staff Changes



### **Congratulations and Farewell to Scott Wallman**

Our Highway Department General Foreman Scott Wallman has retired after 36 years of service to the people of Pittsford. Throughout his career, Scott worked with dedication and skill to provide the best in the broad range of services his department offers and that we all depend upon: snow plowing, road rebuilding and maintenance, leaf collection and so much more. General Foreman since 2010, Scott prioritized responsiveness to residents and their needs with an “above and beyond” approach, encouraging a culture in his department that did the same. Thank you, Scott, for your commitment to Pittsford and its residents. We wish you all the best.



### **New Highway Foreman Matt Rickett**

Congratulations to Matt Rickett, new General Foreman of our Highway Department. With a range of experience in our Highway Department since 1991, Matt has proven to be knowledgeable, effective and dedicated. For the past 10 years he’s successfully managed the Town’s Road

Projects and supervised our road project crews. He now brings his deep experience and skills to leading our Highway team!



### **Jennifer Morrow is new Senior Center Director**

Congratulations to Jennifer Morrow in her new role as our Senior Center Director. A licensed social worker, Jen demonstrates a genuine fondness for working with older adults and brings extensive experience in doing so. Her friendly approach and

adeptness at making personal connections carries on the tradition of her predecessor, Delores DeCoste, and has been welcomed by our Senior Center team. Jen is a lifelong Pittsford resident and takes pride in raising her family in, and now working in, her local community. We’re grateful to have Jen on board to use her knowledge, capacity for caring and commitment for the benefit of our Senior programs and our residents who use them.



### **Vicki Masters Profitt is Town-Village Historian**

We’re pleased to announce Vicki Masters Profitt has been appointed Town and Village Historian. Well-versed in archival practices and historical research, Vicki has served as Town Archivist and Deputy Town Historian for the past four years. She’s been instrumental in researching and assisting with Town history programs and events, including programs celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Town’s Greenprint and Pittsford’s connection to the 19th Amendment Centennial. In 2013 she co-authored, with Town and Village Historian Audrey Maxfield Johnson, the Arcadia Publishing book *Pittsford — Images of America*. As Town Historian she can provide information about ancestry, historic buildings, genealogy and historical facts about Pittsford and its past residents. She’s available Thursdays from 11:00am - 3:00pm or by appointment in her office at the Community Center. Reach her at **248-6245** or **vprofit@townofpittsford.org**. Congratulations Vicki in your new role!

### **Thanks and Farewell to Deputy Supervisor Kate Bohne Munzinger**

Upon completion of her service on the Town Board, we thank Town Councilmember and Deputy Town Supervisor Kate Bohne Munzinger for her outstanding work on behalf of our community. For the past eight years, Kate has served Pittsford with integrity, keen insight, a true affection for our residents, and a commitment to responsive, effective governing. Her work on the Town’s Comprehensive Plan Update, the Town-Village Active Transportation Plan, various health and safety initiatives and our sustainability efforts has made a lasting impact in Pittsford and a significant contribution to the future success of our community. We know our seniors will miss her informative updates and her home-cooked lunches too! Many thanks Kate for your caring and supportive dedication to our residents, to our local businesses, organizations and community groups, and to our Town staff members and volunteers.



# Holiday Celebrations

Pittsford kicked off the holidays in December with the annual **Pittsford Chamber of Commerce Candlelight Night!** At Town Hall we welcomed visitors with complimentary cookies and cider and – new for 2023 – a lighted path behind Town Hall leading to Mrs. Claus at Historic Pittsford’s Little House and to the Grinch at Messner’s. A fun and festive night for all! Then on December 10 **Chabad of Pittsford** welcomed everyone to Pittsford’s annual **Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration** – a wonderful evening of music, food, community spirit, and a truly unique balloon menorah for Chanukah!



## Tax Notice for Seniors Age 65 and Older

*Tax bill reduction possible for those who qualify*

If you will be **65 years of age or older by December 31, 2024** and your **2022 Adjusted Gross Income is less than \$58,400** you may be eligible for an exemption which could reduce your future tax bills.

When determining your eligibility, your income is your adjusted gross income for federal income tax purposes plus your total Social Security benefits and any tax-exempt interest or dividends received. It does not include distribution received from individual retirement accounts. For more information you can contact the Assessor’s office. **The filing deadline is March 1, 2024.**

If you think you may qualify, you can find the Partial Tax Exemption For Seniors form (RP-467) application with instructions on the Assessor’s web page of the Town of Pittsford website at [www.townofpittsford.org/assessor/exemption-information#SENIOR](http://www.townofpittsford.org/assessor/exemption-information#SENIOR). If you have further questions, please contact the Town Assessor’s office at **248-6230** by March 1, 2024.





## Honoring Our Veterans this Holiday Season

Once more the Women’s Club of Pittsford honored the men and women of our armed forces with its Wreaths Across America ceremony. Held in collaboration with Pittsford’s Rayson-Miller American Legion Post 899, the ceremony is held annually. The wreaths placed at the Veterans Monument in Carpenter Park recognize and honor fallen service members, veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. military – all of whom have served to protect our freedoms.



## Pittsford Partnership for Community Education

### UPCOMING EVENTS

### Resources for Parents and Teens

The Pittsford Partnership for Community Education will host a **Youth Summit** for grades 9–12 on March 2 and offers a variety of informational **"Power Hour"** meetings for parents and guardians. Upcoming meeting topics include *From Disability Awareness to Acceptance* (March 5) and *Supporting Students through Grade Level Changes* (May 7). To learn more, and to view previous meeting topic videos, visit [www.pittsfordschools.org/powerhour](http://www.pittsfordschools.org/powerhour). The Youth Summit and meetings will be held at Calkins Road Middle School.



## Food Scraps Recycling Pilot Program Filled

Last year County Executive Bello chose Pittsford to be the County’s municipal partner in a pilot program for recycling food scraps. As the County recycles discarded food from government facilities, Pittsford attends to the residential side. This builds on the Town’s food recycling/composting program at our Community Center, that the Town began in 2019. In September we opened the new residential program to up to 500 households on a first-come, first-served basis. In short order the program was fully subscribed. This pilot program will help the Town and the County assess public support for residential food scraps collection. Another step forward for our sustainability efforts here in Pittsford!

Residents participating in the program collect food scraps and deposit them at a collection site by the Dog Park on East Street. The County collects the scraps and processes them in an anaerobic digester. The digester – an airtight container that uses bacteria to break down organic matter – produces natural gas that generates electricity. That generated electricity can be sold back to the grid. Anaerobic digesters reduce greenhouse emissions and have the potential to destroy more than 90% of disease-causing bacteria that might otherwise make their way into local watersheds.

The pilot program runs through September 2024. We’re pleased to partner with the County in this program and will share updates on its progress.

## New Members Welcome to Join the Pittsford Garden Club

Founded in 1930, the Pittsford Garden Club welcomes anyone interested in learning more about gardening, horticulture and nature – as well as those who’d like to help beautify our community.

Current Garden Club projects include maintaining the gardens at Historic Pittsford’s Little House, providing monthly flower arrangements for the Pittsford Community Library, weeding and planting at the Auburn Line pocket park in the Village and funding the flower urns that grace the Four Corners of Pittsford Village in the summer. The club holds a plant sale in May each year that raises funds for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. They’re eager to welcome new members! To learn more, and to join, contact Co-President JoAnne Shannon at [jo2keuka@yahoo.com](mailto:jo2keuka@yahoo.com) or Secretary Karen Hultz at [kwhultz@gmail.com](mailto:kwhultz@gmail.com).



## Seasonal Parking Rules in Effect Through April 1

To clear the way for snow plowing, the Town’s seasonal parking rules prohibit on-street parking on public roads, including State highways, from November 15 through April 1. These parking rules apply to all areas **within the Town and outside of the Village**.

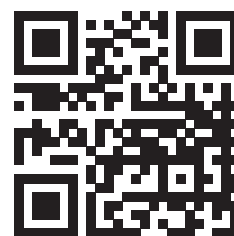
A similar rule applies **within the Village**, whose Code prohibits parking on Village streets, including State roads, between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am from November 1 to April 15. Violators in both jurisdictions, Town and Village, can be towed, ticketed or both.

When the snow flies, the plows must make it through. Parked cars cause particular problems in neighborhoods with narrower streets. Please help keep our streets safe and accessible this winter!

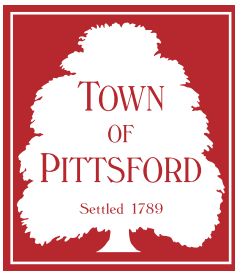


## eNews Signup

Stay up to date on Town meetings, projects, programs, services and events – sign up for our weekly eNews.







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**Town Board**

Kim C. Taylor

*Deputy Town Supervisor*

Naveen Havannavar

Cathleen A. Koshykar

Stephanie M. Townsend

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[www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org)



# A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IN PITTSFORD!

Pittsford sits squarely in the path of totality of the solar eclipse that will occur on April 8, 2024. The Town is celebrating with programs and activities highlighting the science behind the event and the wonder of learning about the natural world. How do we know the eclipse will happen on April 8? How do we know the very minute it starts? Why does it happen? Learn the answers and much more as you join us for the Town's totally fun **Total Eclipse Community Celebration featuring eclipse-themed offerings from now through April!**

Check our eNews, website and social media pages for information about **eclipse-themed programs, activities, speakers and more from our Recreation Department and Pittsford Community Library** staff teams. These include:

- Special Spring Break Camp
- Senior lunch program
- Story Stroll
- Eclipse-themed crafts and activities for kids and teens
- Community Art activity
- Trivia Night
- Favorite Space Films Panel Discussion
- A visit with a NASA Solar System Ambassador
- A range of knowledgeable and inspiring speakers
- And more!

It's been almost 100 years since Pittsford was in the path of totality and it won't happen again until 2144! Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime display of Nature in all its majesty.

Find full information and ongoing updates at [www.townofpittsford.org/eclipse-2024](http://www.townofpittsford.org/eclipse-2024).