

# THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER

Town of Pittsford Community Report

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Winter 2003/04

## Pittsford Supervisor's winter report

2003 was an exciting year for the Town of Pittsford. During the past 12 months we had a successful vote on the library, we opened a new park, and we were the focus of the sports world when we simultaneously hosted both the Buffalo Bills Training Camp and the PGA Championship.

We are thankful to our residents for their overwhelming support of the referendum for a new community library. This project is important in that it will allow us to provide the level of library services that are expected by Pittsford residents. The new library will provide ample space for the collection. More importantly, the new library will allow much more space for chairs, tables, and work space for library users.

The library project also serves as an investment in our village center. The library is an important "anchor" that draws people to the village each and every day. The library and the accompanying parking improvements will help to keep our village center vital and successful.

King's Bend Park was opened in September. This 15-acre park is located on the north side of Jefferson Road between the village and Clover Street.

The park contains two large ponds that provide a wonderful backdrop to the area. The park also contains two enclosed lodges, one of which holds up to 50 people and another which can handle gatherings of up to 99 persons. Each of the lodges are heated, and equipped with a gas fireplace, ceiling fans, a kitchen galley including sink and stove, and patio with a grill.

The lodges have been used regularly, and we have been getting rave reviews from renters. Some of the input for additional improvements includes the need for activities

for kids, and we will be looking at playground equipment this spring.

One of our prides in this project is that town forces accomplished much of the work. It was a great opportunity for our employees to utilize a wealth of talent that they might not ordinarily use in their regular jobs.

Hosting the PGA Championship and the Buffalo Bills Training Camp was another wonderful opportunity for the Town of Pittsford. These sporting events allowed us to market and showcase our community to a national audience. While there is no real windfall in the event itself, we know that there is a long-term benefit from the exposure we get from these events.

This year closes a decade of service as your Supervisor. I am thankful for your



**Bill Carpenter**  
*Supervisor*

continued support of me. I also pledge my continued commitment to work hard for each one of you and the community of Pittsford as a whole.

## Town volunteer boards seek members

The Town has seven volunteer boards comprised of 5 to 7 members each. Much of the important work of the town is aided by residents who generously donate their time and energy to serve as volunteers on these boards. From time to time openings on the boards become available, and the Supervisor's Office draws from a volunteer list to fill vacancies. If you are interested in the opportunity to become involved in your community by serving on one of our volunteer boards, please submit a letter of interest and resumé to Bill Carpenter, Supervisor, Town of Pittsford, 11 So. Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 or email your information to [bcarpenter@townofpittsford.com](mailto:bcarpenter@townofpittsford.com). If you have a specific interest in one of our boards, please state that in your letter. *We look forward to hearing from you!*

- Architectural Review Board
- Environmental Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Pittsford Community Library
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

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

### Citizen of the Year nominations

The Town Board is seeking nominations for the 2003 Pittsford Citizen of the Year. This annual award is presented to Pittsford residents who have made a meaningful contribution in our community.

Pittsford's first Citizen of the Year (1987) was former Town Supervisor Paul Spiegel; last year's honoree was William Remley, founder and organizer of the Walnut Hill Driving Competition.

The 2003 Citizen of the Year will be announced on Tuesday, March 16. A framed copy of the Town Board resolution naming this year's award winner will be presented to the honoree, and his/her name will be added to the permanent display in Town Hall.

Nominees for Citizen of the Year must be a Pittsford resident and have made a significant contribution to the community in a volunteer capacity or in their field of endeavor. Please submit written nominations to:

William A. Carpenter  
 Supervisor  
 Town of Pittsford  
 11 So. Main Street  
 Pittsford, NY 14534

Information may also be emailed to [bcarpenter@townofpittsford.com](mailto:bcarpenter@townofpittsford.com). All nominations must be received by Friday, February 13, 2004.

## Town finances

### Town Board adopts 2004 operating budget

On November 6, five months of work were completed when the Town Board adopted a \$11.9 million operating budget for 2004. This budget results in a tax increase of 0.67%, which translates to a raise of \$4.18 in Town taxes for the average taxpayer.

This budget was one of the most challenging faced by the Town in years. Total spending is projected to increase by a little over 7% from the 2003 adopted budget. The majority of increases fall into 2 categories: salaries and benefits and expenses. The largest of these increases has been driven by outside forces.

Salaries and benefits account for \$580,599 or almost three-quarters of the projected spending increase. A large portion of this amount can be attributed to a change in the policy for local contribution to the New York State Retirement System. This adjustment caused an increase of over \$357,000 which is approximately one half of the total increase in projected spending for Fiscal Year 2004.

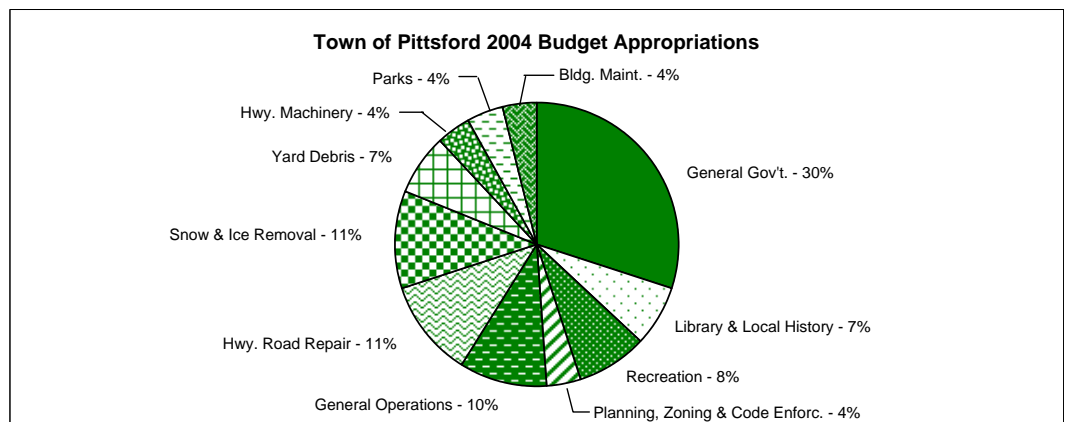
On the expense side of the budget, the largest increase is \$180,000 for rent to relocate the Town Court and Senior Citizens Office. Both of these facilities will be located at 3750 Monroe Avenue in the spring of this year. It is necessary to move the Court due to the construction of the new library,

which was overwhelmingly approved in October. The Senior Citizens Office has been working out of various locations to provide services to the residents of Pittsford. The Monroe Avenue location will combine Senior services at one site, and provide a solid long-term solution to meet the changing needs of these two departments.

Additional increased expenses include over \$50,000 to cover the contractual costs of collecting and disposing of bagged and bundled yard debris. The Town Board recognizes the importance of this service to the residents of Pittsford and is working to improve the process to meet their needs.

As spending increased, the Town Board remained committed to maintaining a tax rate increase below the rate of inflation. To accomplish this, the Town appropriated additional monies from the fund balances, or savings. These savings had been recognized in prior year's budgets either by cost-cutting initiatives, grant awards or revenue surpluses.

The Town Board and staff will continue to aggressively pursue grant awards and identify cost savings for the upcoming fiscal year. We view the budget as a living document that needs constant monitoring to meet the needs of our customers. For more budget information, please feel free to contact the Supervisor's Office at 248-6221.



## Town facilities and services

### Pittsford Community Library

In October 2003, Pittsford residents turned out in record numbers to pass a referendum to construct a new community library. Voters indicated their strong support for the project with a two-thirds majority. Since then an extraordinary amount of work has occurred to finalize property acquisitions and temporary leases, and to prepare construction documents to go out to bid by March 1, 2004.

April will be an exciting month as demolition on the existing library structure begins, followed by a ground-breaking ceremony for the new construction. Soon after, pre-cast concrete will arrive on the building site. Project engineers tell us that the superstructure will go up in less than 3 weeks. The building will be entirely enclosed by the end of fall 2004, and interior work will continue throughout the winter and spring of next year. A late summer (September) 2005 opening is anticipated.

During the construction phase of this new community facility, temporary library services will be located at 3750 Monroe Ave. Packing and moving the library collection, office equipment, and the general contents

of the building from State Street to the new location will necessitate a 2-week disruption of services tentatively scheduled for mid-April. Please plan your library use accordingly.

We share in the community's enthusiasm and excitement about this project. And we believe the new library will provide a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate our accomplishments together.



***Winter packs a snowy, icy punch and we're ready for it! A postcard was recently mailed to residents with information about the town's Snow and Ice Removal Program. If you have questions about this service, please call the Highway Department at 248-6270.***

### Town-wide assessment review

The Town of Pittsford is conducting an annual town-wide assessment review for the year 2004. Your assessment will be set at what is considered to be its full value. This has been determined by reviewing market sales of similar properties. It is important to remember that no one can predict exactly what one individual will pay for a specific parcel on any given day, and we see identical properties selling for different amounts. However, by reviewing multiple sales over time and using generally accepted appraisal standards, we can see trends and make comparisons which we use to set assessments.

Tentative assessments for the 2004 roll will be mailed in March of this year. You can discuss your new assessment with town assessment staff at that time, if you choose. The first time that your 2004 assessment will be used will be for the September 2004 school tax bill and the January 2005 town and county bill. As always, it is important to remember that budgets which are adopted by the local taxing jurisdictions determine the amount of taxes that must be collected. A change in assessment does not necessarily mean an increase in taxes. The sole purpose for reviewing assessments is to provide the most equitable assessments possible.

### New Senior Center and Town Court to open in April

The Town Court, currently located in the lower level of the community library, will find a new home this spring. A 30-year lease has been signed for office space in the building at 3750 Monroe Avenue. The new location is suitably located near the village center and on RTS bus lines.

A brand new Senior Center will open its doors in April. Also at 3750 Monroe Avenue, the Center will consolidate services for Pittsford senior citizens at one convenient location. The facility will include a meeting room/dining area, kitchen, lounge, and office space. Kathy Johnson, Director of the Town of Pittsford Senior Citizen Office, is planning a week-long slate of activities to celebrate their grand-opening.

### Is your dog tagged?

Every dog in the Town of Pittsford must be licensed and display a NYS license ID tag on their collar.

Fines are \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second violation, and \$200 for the third and subsequent offenses. Dog owners are required to pay boarding fees of \$10 per day if their untagged pet is picked up by the Animal Control Officer.

## Town events and programs

# *Father and Daughter Sweetheart Dance*

Friday ♥ February 13 ♥ 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Spiegel Community Center  
35 Lincoln Avenue

*Music ♥ Photographer\* ♥ Entertainment ♥ Decorations*  
*Face-painting ♥ Hairstyling*  
*Valentine gifts for father and daughter ♥ Refreshments*

\$35.00 per couple  
Ages 7 - 11  
Space is limited



\* Photographer available for additional fee.

Please register at the  
Spiegel Community Center

*Sponsored by the Town of Pittsford  
Recreation Department*



**Town of Pittsford**  
11 South Main Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534

**Supervisor**  
William A. Carpenter

**Town Council**  
Sandra F. Zutes  
John J. Higgins  
Karen W. Green  
John E. Bernacki Jr.

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Pittsford, NY 14534  
Permit No. 33

