

THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER

Town of Pittsford Community Report

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Winter 2005/06

Town Supervisor's winter report

2005 was an exciting year for the Town of Pittsford. The much-anticipated, new Pittsford Community Library opened its doors in September to enthusiastic reviews and unprecedented use. Since its opening, we've seen dramatic increases in both the number of people patronizing the Library as well as the number of items in circulation. All in all, a hugely successful community project.

The planning and community input that went into this facility seem to have paid off. The interior of the library was designed with intimate spaces to accommodate a wide variety of library patrons. The usage we are seeing and the comments we have received suggest a bonafide success story.

Additionally, the town's commitment to keep the library in our community center is also paying dividends. The parking lot is full each and every day and night, and there is an obvious increase in pedestrian traffic in the village.

Associated with the construction of the library is the use of the consolidated parking lots located between the canal and State Street as our new venue for community events. The feedback we received from residents at "Pittsford Celebrates" was very positive. Most people liked the new location and thought it provided a cozier, safer environment for these gatherings.

The fireworks display in conjunction with the Library grand opening was spectacular, and we will plan another show in September 2006.

Also last year, the Town of Pittsford was named 1 of 19 "nature friendly communities" in the United States. This

is a wonderful honor that was designated due to the planning and community input that led to the development of the Greenprint. This designation is a further endorsement of how forward thinking this community was since the Greenprint was adopted almost a decade ago.

In December, I was very proud to hold a press conference with Carmella Mantello, Director of the NYS Canal Corporation, to announce a resolution to the segment of the canal trail that currently detours around the State DOT facilities onto Brook Road. This is an issue I have been concerned about for 20 years, and it is rewarding to finally have a resolution that will make this area safer for trail users and residents of Long Meadow.

In closing, the Town Board and I are proud that we were able to adopt a 2006 operating budget that resulted in a 1.32% tax rate decrease. This is even more remarkable when you factor in the skyrocketing costs of medical benefits and fuel and energy.

Any time you have comments or questions about your town government, I encourage you to come out and address the Board and I, or send e-mail to bcarpenter@townofpittsford.com.



Bill Carpenter
Supervisor

Re-elected town officials sworn into office



Town Court Judge Gallina presided over the swearing-in ceremony of re-elected town officials. Pictured from left: Judge Michel, Deputy Town Supervisor Sandra Zutes, Town Supervisor Bill Carpenter, Gallina, and Town Councilman John Bernacki.

Passport Express

Town Supervisor Bill Carpenter and Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo have announced the creation of a new passport service in Pittsford.

“Passport Express” is available 9AM to 4PM every Wednesday at the Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street. The service will move to its permanent home in the lower level of Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street, on Wednesday, April 19. No appointment necessary. Photos available. For further information please call (585) 753-1645.

Get town news delivered on-line

The Town of Pittsford recently launched a new communication service that has quickly become a popular source of information about town events, services and programs.

News & Reviews, an on-line newsletter published each week on Wednesday, provides information about:

- DPW operations
- recreation and library programs
- community events
- board meetings
- awards and recognitions
- services
- breaking news stories

Residents who would like to receive on-line news from the town can enter their subscription request at www.townofpittsford.com.

Town facilities and services

New trail route will improve pedestrian safety

The Town of Pittsford and the New York State Canal Corporation announced that an agreement has been reached on a project that will realign a segment of the Canalway Trail in the vicinity of the State and Town facilities near the Monroe Avenue bridge.

Canal Corporation Director Carmella Mantello and Town Supervisor Carpenter made the joint announcement during a recent press conference at the project site.

The proposal will realign the existing canal trail which directs trail users onto Brook Road, with a completely off-road trail link. The new route between Monroe Avenue and the existing canal side trail west of the state maintenance facilities will be available during peak hours of trail use (evenings and weekends). During off-peak hours (7:30AM - 4:30PM weekdays) an alternate, improved on-road route will be utilized.

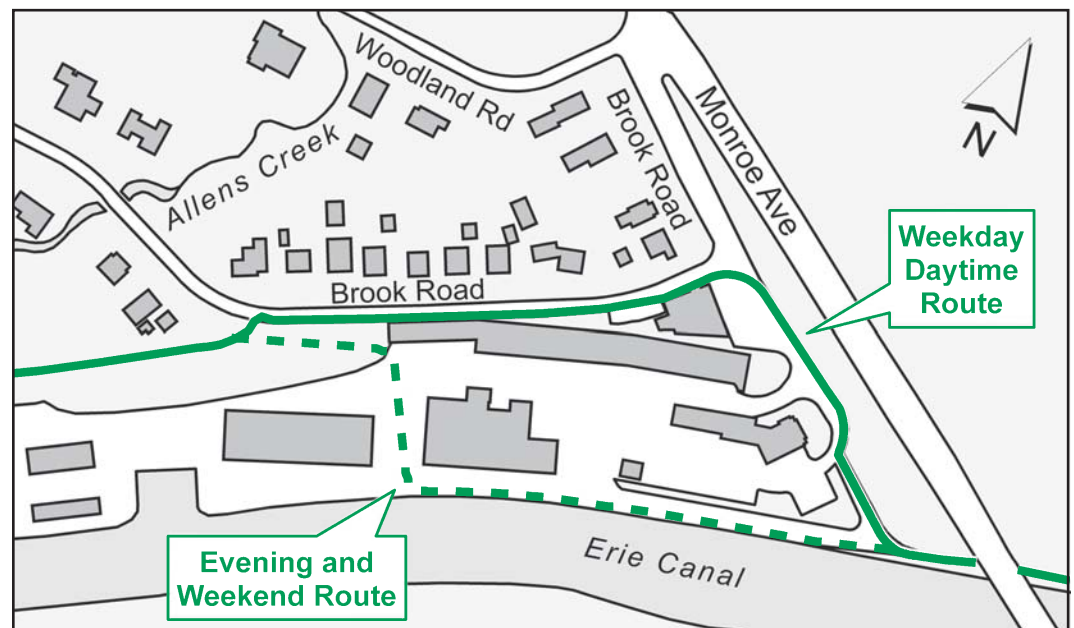
In her remarks to the press, Director Mantello commended Supervisor Carpenter for his leadership in the effort to secure this



Town Supervisor Bill Carpenter welcomes NYS Canal Corporation Director Mantello who was in Pittsford to announce a joint project with the town.

project for Pittsford. She added, “His ability to advocate and facilitate the discussion in Albany forged this partnership with the State.”

Supervisor Carpenter said, “This project will address the Town’s long-standing concerns for the safety of trail users and will benefit the entire community.”



The proposed Canalway Trail realignment project will redirect trail users along the dotted lines on the map above during peak hours of trail activity.

Town assessment update

Active housing market drives reassessment

Since 1986 the Town has been monitoring market trends to help establish the most equitable assessments possible. As part of the ongoing assessment process, the Town of Pittsford is again reviewing all assessments for the 2006 assessment roll. The last time was in 2004. This is necessary as a result of the very active real estate market over the past two years, during which time sales prices have exceeded existing assessments.

In 2004, we saw that values were still appreciating and that we would need to address assessments again in the not too distant future. Your assessment will be set at what is considered to be its full value by reviewing sales data of similar properties. It is important to remember that no one can predict exactly what one will pay for a

specific parcel on any given day and, in fact, we see identical properties selling for different amounts. However, by reviewing multiple sales over time and using generally accepted appraisal standards, we can make comparisons and set assessments.

Tentative assessments for the 2006 roll will be mailed early this spring. The first time your 2006 assessment will be used will be for the September 2006 school tax bill and the January 2007 town and county bill. As always, it is important to remember budgets, which are adopted by the local taxing jurisdictions – village, town, county and school districts, determine the amount of taxes that must be collected and paid. The sole purpose for reviewing assessments is to produce the most equitable assessments possible.

Plans underway for Veterans Memorial

Officials of the Town of Pittsford and the Rayson-Miller American Legion Post are working together to provide the community with a permanent memorial to Pittsford's veterans of war.

A site in the town's Port of Pittsford Park located at 22 N. Main Street has been selected for the proposed memorial. The setting alongside the Erie Canal and in close proximity to the Rayson-Miller Post offers tranquil views, beautiful landscaping and areas for quiet reflection.

Supervisor Carpenter said, "The town is pleased to partner with the Rayson-Miller Post in paying tribute to our local soldiers. A lasting memorial to our veterans of war will honor those in our community who fought bravely in dedicated service to this country. It is fitting that we acknowledge their sacrifice and honor their memory."

Sources of state and/or federal funding



The upper level of the Port of Pittsford town park located in the village at 22 N. Main Street is the proposed site of a Veterans Memorial.

for the construction of the memorial are being explored and plans for the design of the area are being reviewed by the various stakeholders including the town, the American Legion and the Pittsford Garden Club. The project is moving forward with hopes of an autumn unveiling on the Veterans Day federal holiday, Friday, November 10.

Emergency closings

In case of major weather events or other emergencies, tune into the following television and radio stations to receive information about facility closings and cancellations of meetings, programs and events:

- WHAM - 1180 AM
- WBEE - 92.5 FM
- WARM - 101.3 FM
- WROC TV - ch.8 CBS
- WHEC TV - ch.10 NBC
- WHAM TV - ch.13 ABC
- RNEWS TV - ch.9

Details will also be aired on cable channel 12 and posted to the town's website at www.townofpittsford.com.

Registration for spring recreation

Get a jump on spring! Resident registration began on Monday, 3/13; non-residents may register starting Monday, 3/20. You'll want to reserve your spot early for the "Mother & Son Mystery Tour" in May and the "Mother & Daughter Day of Elegance" in June. Details of these and other exciting programs are available in the spring program brochure.

The brochure and registration form can be downloaded from the town's website. Register in person at the Spiegel Community Center or mail to: 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY 14534, Attn: Pittsford Recreation Department.

Town Programming

Popular event returns

The Town of Pittsford Senior Citizens Office, in partnership with Pittsford Schools, will host the 7th annual Senior Citizens "Senior Ball" on Saturday, April 29, 2006 from 7:30 - 10PM at Pittsford Mendon High School.

Each spring, students in the Community Service and Varsity clubs at Pittsford Mendon and Pittsford Sutherland high schools volunteer to work with the staff of the town's VanHuysen Senior Center to provide this very special evening for youth and seniors in the community. The dance, eagerly anticipated by both students and seniors, creates an opportunity for intergenerational connection and sharing. As the date for this year's Senior Ball approaches, we cordially invite you to join us for a special evening of music, refreshments and socializing. Please see event details at right.

SENIOR BALL

Saturday • April 29, 2006
7:30 - 10PM

Pittsford Mendon High School
472 Mendon Road

Dance to the big band sounds of
the "Musicmakers"

Refreshments
Fancy dress optional

Singles, couples, bring a friend!
\$4/person

RSVP by Friday, April 21
Call 248-6235 to reserve ticket(s)



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