

THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER

Town of Pittsford Community Report

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AUTUMN 2007

Town Supervisor's autumn report

This has been a great summer for events in Pittsford. Our attendance at the summer concert series was bigger than ever. Having great weather on Friday nights sure helps.

The visit of the *Lois McClure*, an 88-foot, replica 1862-class canal schooner, was enjoyable. 2,500 people toured the vessel and took part in canal-related activities and programs. The crew and event organizers were thrilled with the reception that Pittsford gave them.

The highlight of the summer was the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's concert in the Port of Pittsford on Friday evening, June 22. Over 10,000 people were on hand for this magical night. It was a unique opportunity to hear the RPO and appreciate the world-class quality of their music. Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik was warm



NYS Canal Corp. Director Carmella Mantello, pictured with Councilman Higgins and Supervisor Carpenter, was in town to attend the ground-breaking ceremony for the Canalway Trail project in Pittsford.

and engaging throughout the evening.

I would like to once again thank the RPO concert underwriters. First Niagara Bank, Senator James Alesi, Wilmorite, the PGA of America and Wegmans. We appreciate your commitment to the arts and to the Pittsford community.

Presently, we are making some town trail improvements that residents have requested. One area being worked on is the Auburn Trail from French Road to the Brighton town line. Another project is the relocation of the Erie Canal trail in the vicinity of Long Meadow off Monroe Avenue. This latter improvement will improve safety, enhance the neighborhood as well as improve the aesthetics along this section of the Erie Canal.

We continue to work on the survey feedback you provided earlier this year. While you gave us generally high marks for the services we provide, we are always looking for ways to improve.

Later this month we will launch a redesigned town website. The site will

be drastically improved over the current one, through improved navigation and the introduction of e-government. Soon you will be able to get more done

online and to pay for services with your credit card. The updates and additional features that will be introduced on the new website will allow you to do business with us when it is most convenient for you.

Finally, I am proud of the proposed 2008 operating budget that I recently submitted to the Town Board for their review. *The '08 budget holds the line on spending and proposes a tax rate decrease for the fourth year in a row.* While town taxes make up only 8% of your total tax bill, we remain committed to being fiscally responsible with your money.



Bill Carpenter
Town Supervisor

Tax rate decrease proposed for fourth consecutive year

On August 31, Supervisor Bill Carpenter submitted his proposed 2008 operating budget to the Town Board. This budget delivers a tax rate decrease for the 4th year in a row. The 2008 tax rate, \$2.79 per thousand dollars of assessment, represents a 0.6% decrease from the 2007 tax rate. The average taxpayer will pay \$719.00 in town taxes, a reduction of just over \$3 from last year.

The Town Board's goal is to keep

the tax rate below the rate of inflation. This proposed budget accomplishes that objective, given that the rate of inflation is around 2.5%. The growth in spending has been held to an increase of 1.31%; the increase in the tax levy has been held to an increase of 0.68%. This budget holds the line on spending and more importantly, holds the line on town taxes.

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Town services

'08 budget holds the line on spending

Continued from page 1...

Changes in the proposed budget can be summarized as follows:

Salaries	+ \$154,198	+ 2.6%
Equipment & Capital	- \$ 2,850	- 0.5%
Expenditures	- \$ 37,998	- 1.0%
Benefits	+ \$ 80,468	+ 3.8%
Transfers & Debt	- \$ 13,431	- 0.9%
TOTAL	+ \$180,387	+ 1.3%

This is a no frills budget that maintains current levels of spending. One exception is in the area of library expenses. Responses from the resident survey suggest that the library collection is no longer adequate. The '08 budget reflects an increase of almost \$13,000 to increase the number of books, magazines and audio visual materials. Funding to expand the collection will also come from The Pittsford Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library.

The Town Board has a long history of being fiscally conservative with its management of budgets and taxes.

- Based on all town budgets since 1994, the average town taxpayer is paying approximately \$15 less in taxes than the rate of inflation during this period. Costs have been successfully contained in other areas to offset two major capital initiatives - the Greenprint and the library construction.

- The annual town budget includes long-range capital budgets to fund the replacement of technology equipment, office equipment, and the town's fleet of vehicles. These budgets assure the town is able to pay cash for these major expenses while maintaining an annual flat-line budget.

- Moody's Bond Rating of Aa2 is one of the highest ratings in New York State which reflects a proven record of sound financial management and solid accounting practices.

A budget discussion is set for every Town Board meeting this month and in October. A Public Hearing on the preliminary budget is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/16; budget adoption is set for Thursday, 11/8. Town Board meetings convene at 7PM in the lower level of Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street.

School tax bills

Residents of the Pittsford Central School District will receive their 2007/2008 school tax bills during the first week in September. If you do not receive your bill by Friday, 9/7, please call the town's tax office at 248-6215.

First installments are due Monday, 9/15. Payment in full will be accepted through Monday, 10/1. **Extended office hours will be available Monday, 10/1, 8AM to 6PM**, for residents who pay in person at Town Hall, 11 S. Main Street.

Payment can also be made at Canandaigua National Bank, 18 State Street, from Tuesday, 9/4 through Monday, 10/1.

Convenient parking is located immediately behind Town Hall. Six spots have been designated for up to 20 minutes of free parking while you visit the offices inside this facility.

Library resumes 7-day schedule

The Pittsford Community Library will be open weekends beginning Saturday, 9/8. The following schedule is in place throughout the 07/08 school year:

- M - Th 9AM - 9PM
- Fri..... 9AM - 6PM
- Sat 10AM - 5PM
- Sun 1 - 5PM



PITTSFORD CELEBRATES
Saturday, September 15
12N to 9PM

Caption here...

Town facilities

Judge Gallina to chair Youth Court Committee

Town Justice Fred Gallina will chair a committee to look into the merits of creating a Youth Court in Pittsford. Supervisor Bill Carpenter asked Judge Gallina to chair the committee, which will include representatives from the town, Pittsford Schools, the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and community youth organizations, as well as residents. The committee will make its recommendation based on feasibility, potential benefits to the community, legal considerations and likely costs.

Youth Courts have succeeded in over 1,200 communities nationwide as an alternative approach to juvenile justice. By

employing concepts such as positive peer influence, accountability, and youth involvement, Youth Courts offer communities a prevention and early intervention program. Because minor criminal offenses and repeated disruptive behavior are known to be signs of a troubled youth, the Youth Court system is a step in addressing a local community's youth-related problems.



Fred Gallina
Town Justice

The theory behind a Youth Court is to hold troublesome youth accountable for their actions, even if the offense is minor. Youth Court is designed to address misdemeanors and non-violent offenses committed in the community or on school premises, such as shop-lifting, vandalism, minor alcohol and drug offenses, disorderly conduct, persistent disobedience, disruptive behavior and tardiness or unexcused absence from school, bullying, fighting or harassment.

First time offenders, ages 8 – 15, enter the Youth Court system via Town Court mandate or referral from the school district. Participants must admit to the charge or complaint and agree to accept the consequences determined by their peers in the Youth Court. The presence of a Youth Court in a community sends a strong message to the youth and the community that their peers do not condone criminal or offensive behaviors.

Youth Courts also educate young people who participate as panelists or court members about the legal and judicial systems and encourage local youths in the direction of civic participation.

King's Bend Park lodge reservations

Requests for 2008 lodge reservations can be made this fall. Open registration (for residents ONLY) will be held at the Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Ave., on Saturday, 11/3, 9AM - 12N. Requests are limited to two per household. Non-residents may apply for 08 reservations beginning Tuesday, 1/2. For more information, please call 248-6280

Yard debris service switchover

Collection of loose brush and branches will end on Thursday, 10/25. Debris in bags or containers will continue to be picked up through Thursday, 12/20. Please plan autumn yard work accordingly with your lawn care provider or landscaper.

Leaf collection will start on a limited basis the week of 10/15; full pickup begins Monday, 10/29.

Get town news delivered online

News & Reviews, the town's weekly online newsletter, is a popular source of information about:

- community events
- town services
- programming
- board meetings
- breaking news stories

Enter your subscription at www.townofpittsford.org.

Town set to launch new website on October 3

A fresh look, better navigation and added features, are in store for visitors to the new Town of Pittsford website. The current site has been in use for more than 5 years, during which time exciting technological advances and new internet capabilities have been developed. Whether you're surfing the web for information or tapping into some of our e-government services, the new website will offer a state-of-the-art, user-friendly online experience.

Residents, in particular, will appreciate the expanded opportunities to do business online with the town, when it best suits their schedule. Other enhancements include the use of credit cards for payment of recreation program fees, facility reservations, court fines, library fines, dog licenses, to name just a few of the options. A service request can be entered online and tracked as it makes its way to the appropriate department manager for action.

All this and more is coming your way!

Town of Pittsford 2007 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Details at www.townofpittsford.org



PITTSFORD CELEBRATES

Saturday, 9/15 • 12N to 9PM

Mark your calendar! The town's annual September community event, *Pittsford Celebrates*, will be held on Saturday, 9/15, 12N – 9PM in our canalside event venue in the village. Music, food and family amusements will be available throughout the day. Rochester's top festival performers, the Skycoasters, will provide a fun-filled evening of party tunes and

dance hits, leading up to a spectacular fireworks display at 9PM. Event details are posted on the town's website at www.townofpittsford.org.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Family Halloween Fest Sunday, 10/28, 2 - 5PM
- Veterans Day Sunday, 11/11, 11AM
- Candlelight Night Tuesday, 12/4, 5 - 9PM

NEW! PITTSFORD APPAREL ONLINE STORE

An exciting new store, Pittsford Apparel, has opened online featuring our signature collection of clothing designed with the Town of Pittsford logo.

All items have been carefully selected for their quality, durability and good price. Each piece in the collection displays the town's logo in 3-color embroidery. A distinctive assortment of women's and men's apparel including caps, a variety of polo shirt styles, fleece vests, windshirts and jackets can be ordered from the online store or by completing the printable merchandise order form and submitting it to the address provided. Prices range from \$10 to \$38.

Orders will be submitted once every month, at the end of the month. Merchandise will be sent directly to your doorstep within two weeks.

Visit the town's website for a link to the Pittsford Apparel online store at www.townofpittsford.org.



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