

Looking Ahead to Pittsford in 2010

2009 was a year of significant accomplishment in Pittsford. Last year brought an updated Comprehensive Plan; recommendations from the *Pittsford.Keeping It Green Committee*; and a new Youth Court. To top it off, the Town of Pittsford was named one of the *Top 100 Places to Live* in the United States by relocateamerica.com. 2010 will be a year to execute these accomplishments. The Town will begin to make zoning changes to implement the Comprehensive Plan; all Town facilities will undergo an energy audit per the *Pittsford.Keeping It Green* recommendations; and the Youth Court will be referred cases by the court system and/or school district. **Unfortunately, 2010 will also be a very challenging year for Town finances.**

In the past, Pittsford has upheld a record of sound financial management and solid accounting practices (as reflected by our Moody's Bond Rating of Aa1 - only one of 13 communities in New York State to achieve this rating). The Town of Pittsford has maintained this excellent financial standing because we have always tried to stay one step ahead of the curve. However, the economy along with state and federal budgeting practices has become increasingly unpredictable - making the Town of Pittsford's future budgets uncertain.

Both the State and federal governments are facing unprecedented deficits. In times of past economic trouble, there has been a history of higher levels of government passing their hardships down to lower levels of government. As an example, last year the State increased spending by almost 10 percent and required localities, like Pittsford, to increase their retirement costs by 50%. In 2010, we are again anticipating that State and federal budget problems will fall on the backs of towns and localities.

With economic uncertainties looming, the Town of Pittsford will begin to look to our residents for help and suggestions. We are very fortunate in Pittsford to have many knowledgeable and financial minded residents. Therefore, we have decided to establish a Blue Ribbon Finance Panel to seek new and innovative ways to budget Pittsford's future. The panel will include business leaders, financial and economic experts, and stakeholders with experience in municipal budgeting and accounting practices. The group will meet several times throughout 2010 and will be expected to thoroughly review the Town of Pittsford's budget.

It is my hope that the Blue Ribbon Finance Panel can help find some creative budgeting solutions. If you are interested in serving on the panel, please do not hesitate to e-mail me a copy of your resume at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org.