

End of year a time to reflect on accomplishments and opportunities

It's been a busy year in the Town of Pittsford. As 2011 draws to an end, I am reminded of our many accomplishments and the opportunities they will provide for the coming year.

We enjoyed another outstanding season of special events, with concerts, festivals and community activities that brought thousands of people together to experience all our town has to offer. We also began improvements to our Summer Concert Series venue – Port of Pittsford Park. By spring, we'll have a new concert stage and other amenities for concert-goers, boaters and all those who enjoy our stretch of the Erie Canal.

In July of this year we conducted our Resident Survey. I was very pleased to see high overall satisfaction with the Town's performance (84%) and an increase in satisfaction with most programs and services. Such response is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff. We also received valuable input via resident's comments, which helped us consider goals and priorities for 2012.

Another accomplishment of 2011 was our involvement in creation of the Pittsford Community Collaborative Task Force. Developed through a partnership between the Town, Village, and School District, this group of volunteers will identify new opportunities for collaborative and cost saving efforts throughout our community.

By far, our most impactful effort of 2011 was the development of a new Residential Neighborhood Zoning District and detailed guidelines to protect and preserve the character of our neighborhoods. Next year's implementation of this unique approach will ensure Pittsford's future growth continues in a sensitive and sensible manner.

We also worked diligently this year to develop a fiscally responsible budget for 2012 that keeps our tax rate low – the 5th lowest tax rate out of 19 towns in Monroe County – and includes no tax rate increase (for the 8th straight year). And, we've done so without any cuts to the high quality programs and services that our residents depend upon and enjoy.

I'm very proud of what we have accomplished in 2011 and look forward to the opportunities of the coming year. I'm also grateful for the outstanding staff and volunteer board members who have helped make our successes of 2011 possible.

On behalf of myself and our Town of Pittsford employees, I'd like to wish all of our residents a happy and prosperous New Year. Should you have any input or comments regarding our priorities for 2012, as always please feel free to reach me at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org or stop by and see me at Town Hall.