

From the Supervisor

Meeting the COVID-19 Challenge

Town Continues Services Throughout

I write this in the full swing of our “new normal” brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the crisis emerged in mid-March, the Town Administration acted immediately to keep residents and Town staff safe from potential illness. We put into place **new procedures** for Town personnel that included heightened facility cleaning protocols, mandating regular handwashing, use of hand sanitizer and sanitary gloves, refraining from sharing work areas and phones, refraining from touching the face, eyes and mouth, and hygienic practices with regard to sneezing, coughing and the like. All critical to stemming the spread of the virus.

Town Hall began handling business exclusively online and by mail, phone, email and the drop slot by the front door. All **public works operations** of the Highway Department, the Sewer Department and the Parks Department continued while observing appropriate health safety and social distancing protocols.

In March, the Town **cancelled the proposed 2020 property reassessments**. Pursuant to State law, the Town must reassess all property periodically. The reassessment for 2020 was proposed just before COVID hit. The economic uncertainty it created for the housing market and others drove the decision to cancel reassessments for this year.

Although the **Library and the Community Center** buildings had to close, their staffs continued to reach out to residents and do so still: Daily calls to check on our senior program participants. Email and social media posts with

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Town Pursuing Community Solar

CCA bids could not meet 100% renewable, lower-cost criteria

Bids received for a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for Pittsford did not meet specifications established by the Town and Village of Pittsford, Brighton and Irondequoit. The three towns and the Village solicited bids for supplying electricity under the proposed inter-municipal CCA program from 100% renewable sources, at a cost less than the average RG&E rate. The two bids received both exceeded the RG&E rate significantly. As the market price of electricity changes over time, another attempt to obtain a compliant bid may be possible.

However, continuing with its longstanding commitment to a healthy environment, the Town is now planning for a Community Solar option for residents. Households and businesses that sign up for Community Solar would get a guaranteed savings of 10% on both supply and delivery of electricity from the community solar source. Supplier presentations were made to Town Board in August and a decision is expected in September.



Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

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eNews Signup

Stay up to date on Town meetings, projects, programs, services and events – sign up for our weekly eNews.

It's quick and easy – visit www.townofpittsford.org/enews
We never share your email address.

Find current Town COVID-19 updates for facilities, services and programs at
www.townofpittsford.org/covid19info

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games, contests, story times and more. Creative approaches to expanding information and resources available online. As with our Town Hall and Public Works staff, a helpful and informative voice on the other end of the phone, answering questions and providing current information about program and service updates. Of course this represents nothing new for us. Flexibility and resilience are part of how we do business. As time went on, our Library adapted by offering curbside pickup service and online programming, and then began opening for limited hours, expanding them gradually while observing strict health safety practices. Our Recreation staff began to offer virtual programs, and through careful planning and safety implementation also was able to offer low-contact recreation programs this summer and modified summer camp programs. Our summer camps alone provided nearly 200 children with an experience that was engaging, fun and safe. These creative approaches were much appreciated by kids and parents alike, and we'll continue them in our After-School programs now getting underway for the season.

Town Hall remains open to residents by appointment. The building's physical limitations don't permit the appropriate social distancing required for unrestricted opening. Mask use and social distancing are required. We have in place physical distancing markers, plexiglass barriers and appropriate sanitizing practices and equipment both for the safety of residents who visit Town Hall and staff.

We'll continue to provide as many services as possible by email, phone and mail, as Town Hall staff have done successfully since March. In-person meetings are limited but can be scheduled if urgent.

State closure mandates resulted in canceling most of our summer events, but we came up with some creative alternatives, including **Food Truck Wednesdays** and **Drive-In Family Movie Nights**. We continue to follow State guidance for providing **fall recreation programming**. Information, including our seasonal brochure, can be found on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/home-recreation. Keep in mind program details may change and check for updates.

COVID Impact on Town Budget

I've begun putting together the Supervisor's proposed budget for 2021. As always, it has begun with consultation among our Finance Director, the Department Heads and me. Across the country the COVID crisis has compromised revenue streams to governments at every level. Pittsford is no exception. To give you an idea, sales tax revenues from Monroe County for the 2nd quarter were down by 39% versus one year ago. However, because of Pittsford's careful and conservative budget practices, we're in a very good position to handle the significant declines in revenue since the COVID crisis began.

We haven't had to pull back on any major projects, such as road repaving. We haven't had to lay off a large portion of our workforce. In fact, we created a "Pandemic Time Bank" to provide paid time off to every employee who has needed time off for childcare, and for COVID-related inconveniences or necessities. This is above and beyond pandemic time allowances provided by the state and federal governments. We've been able to offer as many community events as pandemic restrictions allow. Thanks to Pittsford's disciplined and strong budgeting practices over the years, we're well situated to cope with the revenue shortfalls in 2020 and likely beyond. As I fulfill the duty placed on

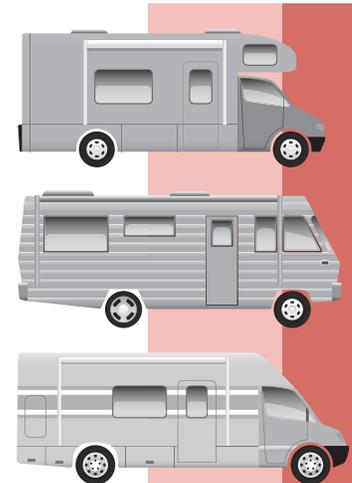
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Temporary Outdoor Seating Helps Pittsford Restaurants

To help restaurants and pubs in the Town reopen safely in light of challenging COVID-19 State restrictions, we implemented in June a simple Temporary Outdoor Seating Application and a streamlined approval process. This quick and easy process enabled interested bars and restaurants to serve outdoors as soon as the State allowed them to open for on-site service. We recognized a need to assist these small business owners during these exceptional circumstances; staff provided assistance with seating plans and other guidance as needed. Those businesses interested in obtaining a temporary outdoor seating permit can find further information at www.townofpittsford.org/home-dpw-code.

RV Code Temporarily Suspended to Aid Frontline Workers

To assist front-line healthcare workers and others from every walk of life who work face-to-face with the public every day, Town Supervisor Bill Smith suspended the Town's restrictions on recreational vehicles in residential driveways. The temporary change was made to support doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers, and all front-line workers in Pittsford who are bringing their RVs home to stay in them as a way of keeping distance from their families.



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the Supervisor by State law as the person responsible for preparing and proposing a Town Budget, my focus for 2021 is to maintain the high level of Town services you've come to expect, while keeping your Town taxes the smallest part of your overall tax bill: Pittsford **Town** Taxes account for *only 9 cents of every dollar you pay in property tax*.

Keeping Current

State guidelines change frequently and we must comply with them. As we get new information, we'll provide regular updates in our eNews, on our website and on Facebook. In the meantime, follow the Facebook pages of our Pittsford Community Library and our Pittsford Recreation department to find resources for adults, kids and families to learn and have some fun during these unique circumstances requiring physically distanced activities and additional safety procedures. In the coming

months, we'll continue to make sure that Town services, amenities, information and programs remain safely available to our residents, with whatever modifications are needed.

Across all Town departments, our staff members have a deep commitment to our residents. They've risen to a unique challenge, serving our residents with the highest level of care, consideration and professionalism – and they continue to do so. By this I'm delighted, but not one bit surprised. My sincere thanks to them all.

Regular updates about our COVID-19 response and reopening plans, as well as other Town information, can be found at www.townofpittsford.org/covid-19info. I'll keep you posted on my *Bill Smith Pittsford Town Supervisor* Facebook page as well. Updates also will be posted in the Town's eNews each week; sign up to receive it at www.townofpittsford.org/enews.

For the past several months we've all been working together to keep the pandemic from spreading beyond our means to contain it. Halting our efforts now exposes us to the very risks we've strived so hard to avoid. Please – for yourself, for others, follow appropriate physical distancing **and wear your mask in public when you're within 6 feet of others**.

Adapting to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging on many fronts. We'll get through this together. We'll emerge stronger. As ever, I remain ready to assist our residents and businesses in any way I can. Please reach out to me directly by phone at **248-6220** or by email at wsmith@townofpittsford.org if I can be of service, or if you have questions or comments. In the meantime, please be safe and stay well.

East Ave Sidewalk Project – Collaboration Brings Effective Solution

Our recent work on the East Avenue sidewalk project is an outstanding example of extensive collaboration and precise coordination. Completing this section of the sidewalk, which will connect Pittsford Village to the Town of Brighton, required carving into a substantial hill in front of St. John Fisher College. It also meant relocating an RG&E power line. No small feat, in either case, and quite a challenge in combination.

The Town project team worked closely with St. John Fisher staff to ensure the excavation work met both engineering and aesthetic needs. Timing and safety concerns both were critical for the power line relocation – frequent communication and comprehensive planning with RG&E was key.

Our sincere thanks to the staff teams from St. John Fisher College and RG&E; their responsiveness and commitment to collaborating with

us helped ensure the success of this important Town project. Many thanks as well to our Town staff – they've worked diligently, creatively and effectively, and their efforts will have a lasting and positive impact on our community. With each sidewalk project, we've increased our skill and ability to construct them efficiently and cost-effectively. And we'll continue to do so.



DID YOU KNOW?

At least one tree planted for each removed

It has long been the Town's policy to plant at least one tree for every one that must be removed due to disease or other factors. Most years we plant many more than that! It's part of our long-standing commitment to creating a more sustainable Pittsford.



Residents Step Up During Crisis

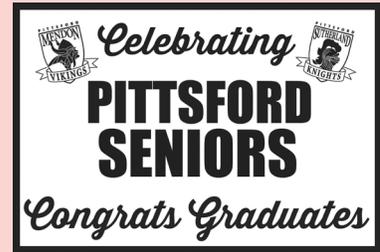
Chinese-American Community Members Lend Support

Many thanks to members of Pittsford’s Chinese-American community who in March collected donations to provide approximately 2,600 medical masks to health care providers, senior living communities, the Food Cupboard and first responders in Pittsford. The donation packages included writings and pictures by the youngest members of the volunteer group, expressing love and support for those receiving masks. Town staff organized mask distribution and joined the volunteers in delivering them.



Students Organize Local Fund Raiser

Pittsford students, working with the Pittsford PTSA, organized a **lawn sign fund raiser**. The signs showed support for graduating seniors and raised funds to support Pittsford Youth Services and other regional charities benefitting children and youth, including Rochester Kids, St. Joseph’s Neighborhood Center and the Children’s Institute. Way to go Knights and Vikings!



Young People Promote Public Safety

Pittsford Mendon High School junior **Katherine Huang and her sister Cailey**, a seventh-grader at Barker Road Middle School, created and distributed social media public safety promotional images designed to inspire young people to get serious about COVID-19 and to help everyone stay safe.



Residents Give to Those in Need

Many individuals and groups have collected generous donations for the **Pittsford Food Cupboard**, including the Green family (pictured at right) and folks from the Charter Oaks neighborhood. The need continues! Please stop by the Food Cupboard if you need assistance or to donate if you can. Visit www.pittsfordfoodcupboard.net for information.



Town Roadwork Takes Advantage of Less Traffic & Lower Cost

During the relative quiet of the COVID-19 shutdown in May, Town Highway and Sewer Department crews took advantage of lower asphalt prices and reduced traffic to complete some road work projects more quickly and more cost-effectively, including the reconstruction of Arlington Drive, Old Farm Circle and Van Cortland Drive and resurfacing the parking lots at Town Hall and the Library. Town crews were also able to address potholes and repave French Road, one of the Town’s busiest roads.



Arlington Drive reconstruction

Completing Work on the Town’s Erie Canal Nature Preserve

Preserving green space and offering a healthy recreational environment for Pittsford’s residents has been a Town priority for years. Along these lines one of our most ambitious projects in recent memory is the Erie Canal Nature Preserve, which protects and conserves a beautiful area of unspoiled land with a unique ecology. Located on approximately 20 acres of Town-owned land between the Erie Canal and the Auburn Trail, it includes a thriving and healthy frog breeding habitat with four ponds and adjacent wetlands. We’re nearing completion of the significant, but low-impact, improvements that make the site accessible to the public. The preserve offers a creekside rest area, with overlooks of the Frog Ponds and meadows, and includes an elevated boardwalk trail allowing minimal-impact access to the wetlands. A new trail connects the Canal Path with the Auburn Trail.

Though Town-owned, the preserve lies mostly within the Village of Pittsford. It’s adjacent to 10 acres owned by the Village and recently dedicated by the Village as parkland. Both the Town and Village parcels had been designated, in an older canalside plan, adopted about 12 years ago, as sites for building. Supervisor Smith and Mayor Corby chose a different approach. In consultation with the

Village, the Town applied for and won a State grant for the basic work to make the Town land publicly accessible as a preserve. The Town and Village collaboration will preserve this inspiring natural area for the benefit of wildlife and residents alike, and for years to come.



The Town’s Erie Canal Nature Preserve will benefit wildlife and residents alike.

Food Truck & Music Fest, Family Halloween Fest Cancelled

NYS COVID-19 health safety restrictions regarding special events and large gatherings have forced the cancellation of the Town’s annual Food Truck and Music Fest, usually held in early September on Main Street, and the annual Family Halloween Fest, usually held in mid-October at St. John Fisher College.

We share your disappointment and we look forward to the time when Pittsford residents can gather safely and celebrate as a community. In the meantime, we thank you for continuing to observe physical distancing and health safety practices. Your efforts as individuals will help keep everyone safer and will bring us closer to the day when Town events, programs and facilities will return to full access.

Town Distributes Over 100,000 Free Masks

In response to COVID-19 health safety needs, the Town has distributed well over 100,000 free masks to Pittsford residents. In addition to two drive-in distribution events held at Mendon High School in May, Town staff also personally delivered thousands of masks to Pittsford senior residential communities and senior care facilities, to first responders and to individual residents’ homes for those unable to otherwise obtain masks. The Town also gave masks to the Pittsford Chamber of Commerce for distribution to local businesses and has made ongoing mask deliveries to the Pittsford Food Cupboard.



Recreation Dept Gets Creative with Programs & Events

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and State health mandates, our Pittsford Recreation team adapted and got creative to offer events and programs in a safe and enjoyable manner. We began with unique and engaging **Recreation programs online** – including theatre camps and Mad Science programs. Through careful planning and rigorous safety practices we expanded to recreation programs that afforded physical distancing and also were able to offer an engaging **Summer Camp** program for all. We'll continue this approach for our **fall recreation programs** and **After School programs**. Find complete information at www.townofpittsford.org/home-recreation.

In lieu of our traditional community events this summer, we came up with some new ones. Our **Family Drive-In Movie Nights** were a great success, as were our **Food Truck Wednesdays** at Thornell Farm Park. We were glad to see so many residents come out for these events and truly appreciated that all used masks and followed distancing guidelines.



A fun start to summer camp!



Delicious social distancing with Food Truck Wednesdays.



A great new approach to our Family Movie Nights!

Library Expands Hours, Online Programs & Resources

While carefully observing COVID-19 health and safety guidelines determined by New York State, the Pittsford Community Library has gradually reopened with limited hours and has continued to expand its online resources and programming. After Labor Day, the Library will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00am - 7:00pm and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00am - 5:00pm; please note face coverings and appropriate social distancing are required.

Curbside pickup of Library materials is available on Saturdays; make pickup arrangements via email at pcreference@townofpittsford.org or call the Library with your request at **248-6275**. The Library also offers a Virtual Reference Desk. New online

programs and resources are added frequently. Current offerings include art and craft video classes for adults and kids, with supplies available for pickup at the Library; online story times for children; Teen Trivia Nights and other teen programs via Zoom; and an Explore STEM program for preschoolers.

Find complete information about Library hours, services, resources and guidelines at www.bit.ly/your-library-at-home.



School Tax Payments Online Fee Waived

Our Town Clerk's Office will be allowed to collect school tax payments starting September 1. Town of Pittsford residents will receive their 2020-2021 school tax bills in the mail by or after September 1. If your bill does not arrive by Tuesday, September 8, please call the tax office at **248-6215**. Consistent with COVID-19 safety practices for both the public and our staff, the Town will accept payments by mail or by our secure drop slot located to the right of the front door of the Pittsford Town Hall. You can also pay online, and **for this tax season only, the customary 3% service fee for online payment is waived**. Please see your tax bill or visit the "School Tax Payment Information" link on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/home-clerk for more information.

Curbside Lunch and Grab & Go Meals for Seniors

We have two convenient pickup lunch programs for seniors at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. A **“Grab and Go” meal** from the Monroe County Office of the Aging is offered on Wednesdays. On Fridays, our very own Chef Julie cooks up meals for our **homemade “Curbside Lunch”** program. Grab and Go meals are \$3.50 each and our Curbside Lunch meals are \$4.00 each. Meals for both programs must be reserved in advance; pick up is at the bus loop behind the Community Center. For more information, and to order, call our Senior Programs office at **248-6235**.



Senior Center Director Delores DeCoste delivers a “Grab and Go” meal.

Town Court Open on Limited Basis

Pittsford Town Court sessions are being scheduled on a limited basis. Town Court staff are available by phone and email Monday – Friday from 9:00am –5:00pm; call **248-6238** or email at **pdtromgoole@townofpittsford.org**. Visitors must follow appropriate health safety and social distancing requirements for Court appearances and Court Office visits.

Balance Class for Seniors Offered Online

We miss our seniors! While we can’t see you in person yet, we’re glad to offer one of our popular programs online – our Seniors Balance Class. It’s a great way to improve strength and mobility as well as to practice your balance skills. The class is free to Pittsford residents. For more information and to sign up, call the Senior Programs office at **248-6235**.

Pittsford Political Equality Club

Pittsford residents worked actively to win women the right to vote. The Monroe County Mail on September 19, 1901 described how at a meeting of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, Gertrude Wilmarth Lash “... spoke in the interest of the Political Equality Club, with the object of starting a club in Pittsford among members of the W.C.T.U.”

The Club had its first meeting on September 6, 1902. Like so many who worked for suffrage, many of the founding members never lived to see women vote.

Founding Members

Died Before August 1920

- Gertrude Wilmarth Lash*
- Louise Meyer Van Buskirk
- Maria Boughton Crump*
- Mary Helen Shepard Light*
- May Malone Staller*

Died After August 1920

- Eva Francis Curtiss Tousey*
- Eva Gillam Emmons*
- Mary Jane Austin Agate*
- Romaine Hayward Lusk*
- Harnet Sealey Whatley*
- Mina Anscomb Powell*
- Pearl Kenyon Eckler
- Mary Sutherland True*
- Christine Boughton Dunning

* buried in Pittsford Cemetery



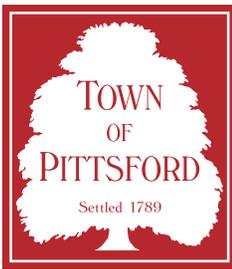
www.townofpittsford.org/19thAcentennial
[#pittsfordcelebratethe19thA](https://twitter.com/pittsfordcelebratethe19thA)



Pittsford Celebrates the 19th Amendment

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s ratification, which gave women in America the right to vote. We celebrated this important centennial with a self-guided walking tour featuring the people and places in Pittsford important to advancing women’s voting rights, a self-guided tour of Pittsford Political Equality Club charter members’ gravesites at Pittsford Cemetery, voter engagement tables and a socially distanced fireworks display in Pittsford Village. We’ve created a website with information about the members of the PPEC and women’s suffrage in Pittsford – visit **www.townofpittsford.org/19thAcentennial** for information about the Pittsford women who championed women’s voting rights!





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Cathleen A. Koshykar

Stephanie M. Townsend

GO SOCIAL WITH THE TOWN OF PITTSFORD!

Stay up to date by following the Town of Pittsford on social media.

You can find us on:



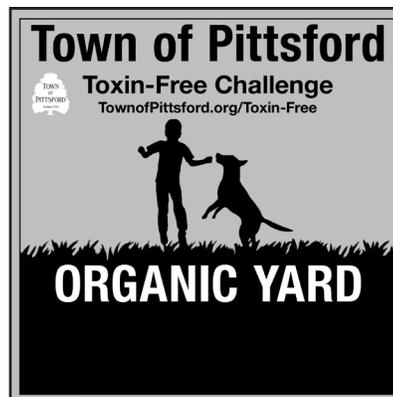
The Pittsford Messenger Summer/Fall 2020

www.townofpittsford.org

Reminder from Supervisor Smith on Mask Use

As you get outdoors to enjoy the late summer, please do remember to **keep a mask or face covering with you and use it** if there is a chance you will be within 6 feet of others outside of your family or quarantine group.

Enjoying our natural spaces is a positive way to ease the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions. So too are opportunities to safely enjoy activities or a meal out, or to shop for needed items. When you head out please – for yourself, for others, for reaching more quickly a future where we won't need masks – wear your mask around others. And please **patronize our local businesses**, whether shopping in-store or online, dining or ordering take-out, enjoying services, or purchasing gift cards for future use. We're all in this together!



Pick up your Toxin-Free Challenge lawn sign at the front door of Town Hall, 11 South Main Street, or at the Pittsford Community Garden at Thornell Farm Park, 480 Mendon Road.

Recreation Programs Info Online

Information about fall program offerings, including our seasonal brochure, can be found on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/home-recreation. Keep in mind program details may change as we continue to receive guidance from the State and from the County Department of Health. Recreation staff plans will follow all guidelines; safety for participants and staff is the top priority. Updates about Recreation programs and registration, and special events will be posted on the Town website and on the Pittsford Recreation Facebook page.

