

From the Supervisor

COMMUNITY STABILITY

Community stability rests upon those characteristics most of us look for in a place we'd like to live. Safe, attractive and strong neighborhoods. Low crime. Historic preservation. Protecting open space. A first-rate school system. Community commitment to sustainability. Neighbors of all backgrounds and walks of life who, broadly speaking, share your values about basics like noise in the neighborhood, mutual courtesy and respect, the importance of education for children, maintenance of home and yard and other attributes that create good relations among neighbors. Equally important is having confidence that these aspects of our community will continue over time – in the community and your neighborhood.

Strong Neighborhoods

Most of our neighborhoods in Pittsford consist of single-family homes. A single-family home is a standalone residence built for one household. It's not attached to another dwelling and has its own utilities and land.

For many of us, buying our home is the single largest investment we'll make. Zoning changes in an existing single-family home neighborhood that depart from the single-family model can dramatically change the character of the neighborhood. This can unfairly and unduly affect the lives of the neighborhood's homeowners, the stability of their neighborhood and their property values.

This mainstay of community strength **was put at risk a few years ago** when Governor Hochul threatened to override local zoning laws, to allow houses in single-family neighborhoods to be carved into apartments, and to allow second houses to be built on lots where a house already stands. All without the standard environmental review to protect the house next door. Bipartisan, statewide opposition forced Albany to back down. We must be sure not to do at the local level what we stopped the State from doing. The damage would be the same. Many thanks to all the Pittsford residents who spoke out against this.

You have a voice in keeping your neighborhood strong and stable. The Town Board soon will present our proposed revised Zoning Code for public review and for public hearings **on Tuesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 27 at 6:00PM in the Fisher Room at the Town Library.** You will receive notice. By law, the Zoning Code must follow the Town's Comprehensive Plan. In keeping with that Plan and with the Community Survey that underpinned it, the draft revised Zoning Code protects the status of existing single-family residential neighborhoods. The overwhelming majority of Pittsford residents support this. I can't emphasize enough how important it is for those of you who support the stability and character of your neighborhood to attend the public hearings.



Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

Inside:

- New Sidewalks
- Reduced Speed Limit
- New Dog Park Access
- Refuse Districts
- Road Repaving

Public Hearing for REVISED ZONING CODE

When:
Tuesday, March 18, 6:00PM

Town Board vote anticipated
for meeting on
Thursday, March 27, 6:00PM

The Hearing on March 18 will be held
open to permit additional comments
at the meeting
on March 27.

Where:
**Fisher Meeting Room
Pittsford
Community Library
24 State Street**



From the Supervisor

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First-Rate Schools

A central pillar of Pittsford's stability and success has been the strong and mutually supportive relationship between the Town government and our School District. I'm proud to support our teachers, our School District, our Superintendent and School Board. Their work and vision place Pittsford's schools among the most outstanding in the country. **Strong schools support strong property values.**

Low Crime

In a high-crime state we're a low-crime town. That doesn't mean we're immune from it. In the last few years we've felt, even in Pittsford, effects of the State Legislature's recent changes in law that put more criminals on the streets. As Supervisor I work closely with the Captain of Sheriff's Zone A, which covers Pittsford, on matters relating to public safety and how we can partner to improve it. The responsiveness and flexibility of the Sheriff's Office has been exemplary. Thank you, Zone A and thank you, Sheriff Todd Baxter.

A Delicate Position

In Pittsford we're accustomed to a quality of community life many consider enviable. It's so easy to take it for granted – to think it will last for our lifetimes and beyond. It can – and will – *provided* we continue the wisdom of policy choices and decisions, stretching back over decades, that have made our Town the place where we want to live. Yet, as with so many other things of beauty and value, our situation may be more fragile than we realize.

Recently a developer proposed an apartment complex for a parcel where zoning allows for market-rate apartments. The developer applied to COMIDA, the local industrial development agency, for abatements of property tax, sales tax and mortgage tax. As a condition for granting the tax abatements, COMIDA would have required 20% of the apartments to be set aside as below-market-rate rentals.

Joined by one other member of Town Board, I spoke at COMIDA's public hearing on the application for tax breaks, expressing concern about **lost revenue to the Town and School District**. I noted that because zoning for the parcel only allowed market-rate apartments, requiring a below-market set-aside would kill the project outright, since it then would be incompatible with the zoning.

Also, I noted that the set-aside would conflict directly with the Town's Comprehensive Plan (that developed from five years of public input and workshops) and

with the Community Survey that underpinned the Comprehensive Plan, in which **83% of residents did not support government-subsidized or mandated below-market housing**. COMIDA subsequently denied the biggest portion of the tax break, the property tax abatement. It did **not** require the below-market set-aside.

In recent years, our Town Board has avoided, sometimes barely, taking the Town in a direction most Pittsford residents don't want. Decisions that would inflict precisely the kind of change most of you keep telling me not to make. As Supervisor I won't support policy choices adverse to your wishes and interests. But I'm just one vote out of five. The final outcome is not up to me alone. It relies on having a Town Board that joins me in standing up for you.

Continual Improvement

At Town Hall, we continue to pursue the kind of changes you **do** want.

More Housing Choices

We've had success in seeing new neighborhoods of single-family *attached* houses. **These, too, form stable neighborhoods**. They've been especially popular with empty-nesters who are downsizing. As expressed in the Comprehensive Plan, we're committed to making provisions so it's easier for builders to offer housing choices specifically for people in or approaching their retirement years, that can be built for more modest pricing. **Many want to downsize while remaining in Pittsford**. In updating our Zoning Code we're making provision for smaller patio homes, for cluster zoning and for other provisions for future construction in undeveloped places, which can result in housing options that cost less, relative to typical pricing. These changes would **not** affect existing residential neighborhoods in Pittsford.

Traffic Issues

Like every other community nearby, the Town continues to deal with speeding and other traffic safety problems. **We've lowered the speed limit in every residential neighborhood from 30 to 25 mph – the lowest allowed by State law**. Eight additional Sheriff's Deputies joined Zone A last October. Ten more are expected this September. Working with the Sheriff, we deploy Deputies to pay special attention to chronic trouble spots, with heightened visibility to deter speeding. We've purchased additional pole-mounted speed radar signs. These make a demonstrable difference in keeping speed under control. Over the past two years we've purchased four additional speed trailers. These we can deploy rapidly when and where needed.

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Neighborhood Speed Limit Reduced to 25 mph

Last year, the State gave local municipalities authority to reduce speed limits within their jurisdictions to 25 mph. Previously, municipalities could not reduce speed limits below 30 mph. **Consequently, the Town has reduced speed limits on Town roads to 25 mph.** This covers all residential neighborhoods that are not on State or County roads. Our Highway Department has completed installing new speed limit signs in all neighborhoods.

This may seem like a minor change, but even small reductions in speed make a big difference. A 5 mph reduction materially decreases a vehicle's stopping distance and reduces the force of impact. **A person hit by a car going 25 mph has a 50% greater chance of survival than a person hit by a car going 30 mph.**

Road safety and deterring speeding is a priority for Pittsford, as it is for all other nearby communities. We all face the same problem. Reducing the speed limit in residential neighborhoods mitigates both the risk and harm of accidents.



From the Supervisor

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Construction begins this summer on the next major sidewalk projects in Town. We live in a distinctly active community of walkers, runners, bikers and kids walking to school. **Please be careful, watch your speed and obey stop signs!**

Our perpetual struggle continues with **the State Department of Transportation** to honor your wishes for reasonable, common-sense safety improvements whose need is blindingly apparent to everyone except the people who make decisions at State DOT. The State turned down my most recent written request from last August to lower the speed limit on Clover Street in the vicinity of its intersection with Jefferson Road. State DOT based its rejection on a study it conducted. I then asked for the data produced by the study. For this the State DOT requires a Freedom of Information request. So we've filed it. And the beat goes on.

Sustainability

By now this concept is ingrained so deeply in our Town government that it's hard to think of it as something separate from daily operations. Pittsford's leadership in environmental practices has won us State certification as a Clean Energy Community and a Climate Smart Community, both of which opened the door to additional

grant funding. The flagship of Pittsford's sustainability initiatives is our Greenprint Plan, enacted in 1996. It's preserved as open space in perpetuity two-thirds of the Town's then-remaining farmland.

Pittsford's sustainability initiatives have been ongoing ever since. **There's always more to do:** we've now begun implementing recommendations of our Climate Action Plan that address municipal operations.

In Sync With You

My commitment to you continues: to maintain and pursue the policies the broad consensus of our residents endorse. The policies that make Pittsford a place we're happy to call home, as together we pursue *continual improvement* – the kind of change we can all support.

As ever, I need to hear from you about any problem you may be having where the Town can help or about your suggestions for improvements in Pittsford. I maintain an open-door policy in the office, answer my own phone unless I'm in a meeting or on another line and have a monthly Saturday open house for residents at the Library's Fisher Meeting Room. You can reach me at (585) 248-6220 or by email at wsmith@townofpittsford.org.

Upcoming Department of Public Works Projects

Road Work

Once the weather allows, our Highway and Parks departments will resume ongoing projects and begin new ones. This is in addition to the routine maintenance they undertake every day.

Our **Capital Improvement Plan for 2025** includes **full repaving of more than 3 miles of residential streets**, including new gutters. The work will include new gutters. Work for the season will begin on Deer Creek Road and Wandering Trail. In addition, the Highway crews will resurface an additional 10 miles of roads and will undertake routine maintenance on an additional 3 miles of roads.

Grant Funding for Municipal Improvements

The Town has won a Transportation Alternatives Program grant to improve sidewalks and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. We're using the funds to extend **the Thornell Road sidewalk** from where it ends now at Oak Meadow Trail to Mendon Road, then continue the new sidewalk up Mendon Road to Thornell Farm Park. The project will add a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Thornell Road and Oak Meadow Trail. We expect to begin construction this year.

The Town successfully applied to Monroe County for funding that pays half the cost of a **new sidewalk on Tobey Road, from Cricket Hill Drive to Clover Street**. Engineering and design work is well along and the Highway Department expects to start work this summer. The Town will provide notice to Tobey Road residents before work begins, as we do for all sidewalk projects.

New Sidewalk

In addition to the pending sidewalk projects described above, the Town is finalizing a plan **to install a sidewalk along East Street from Brickston Drive to Arbor Creek Lane**. This would replace the existing asphalt sidewalk on the portion of the proposed new span on East Street between Thornell Road and Brickston Drive. A public meeting regarding this project is forthcoming.

Details about upcoming road and sidewalk projects are posted on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/dpw/highway.

Sewer Upgrades

Our Sewer Department continues its project of **relining the sanitary sewer pipe system**. The next work is scheduled for the Kilbourn Road neighborhood. Relining makes digging unnecessary. Instead, it inserts into existing pipes a flexible liner that fixes cracked, leaking, or damaged pipe. It represents a durable and cost-effective

alternative to digging out old pipes and replacing them. It's much less disruptive to the neighborhood. Residents will receive notice before work begins on their street.

We're also continuing to upgrade sewage pumping stations, incorporating new technology so we can monitor sewers remotely.

This season you'll see our Sewer Department crews maintaining stormwater facilities **by clearing rear-yard drainage swells and upgrading drainage systems**.

To learn more about upcoming Sewer Department projects and schedules, please visit www.townofpittsford.org/dpw/sewer.

Parks

Our Parks Department has completed the New Copper Beech Park, on North Main Street by the Library entrance. It includes a connection to the original Copper Beech Park on State Street. New tables and chairs, including two all-weather game tables for chess and checkers, will be delivered soon. **Harladay Hots** will be back for the season.

Once weather permits our Parks crews will be busy **reconstructing trail accessways resurfacing the parking lot at King's Bend Park and continuing our program to eventually eliminate invasive species**.

Access to the Dog Park

The Pittsford Dog Park and all other municipal dog parks in the Monroe County system are transitioning to a key fob system for entry. Currently, your dog needs only to wear a Monroe County Dog Park tag to enter any dog park. The new key fob system will improve security, ensuring only registered dogs and their owners can enter. Weather permitting, the County will install the new system before the end of April.

Monroe County already sends and will continue to send key cards to residents when they register to use the dog park. This same key card will serve as the key fob that will allow your entrance into any municipal dog park in the Monroe County System. *There is no need to register your dog again.* First-time users should register their dog by filling out the form found here: www.monroecounty.gov/mcparks/reserve/dogs.

Please call the Monroe County Parks Department at **(585) 753-7275** or mcparks@monroecounty.gov if you have misplaced your key card.

For information about the Town's parks, trails, and walkways, visit www.townofpittsford.org/dpw/parks.

Yard Debris Cleanup Continues

Town crews collect bagged and containerized yard debris and loose brush and branches in your neighborhood each week. During winter there is no fixed schedule, but pickup carries on through the middle of May. You can visit our interactive Yard Debris Collection Street Map at gis.townofpittsford.org/YardDebris to see what day crews will be in your neighborhood next. For complete details, please visit www.townofpittsford.org/yard-debris or consult the Town's Yard Debris Information Card recently mailed to your home.

Scheduled collection resumes in May and continues through October 31. Crews will pick up bagged and containerized debris, as well as loose brush and branches, weekly on your scheduled pickup day. Schedules vary based on weather conditions and the volume of debris. We appreciate your patience!

For more information, visit www.townofpittsford.org/yard-debris.



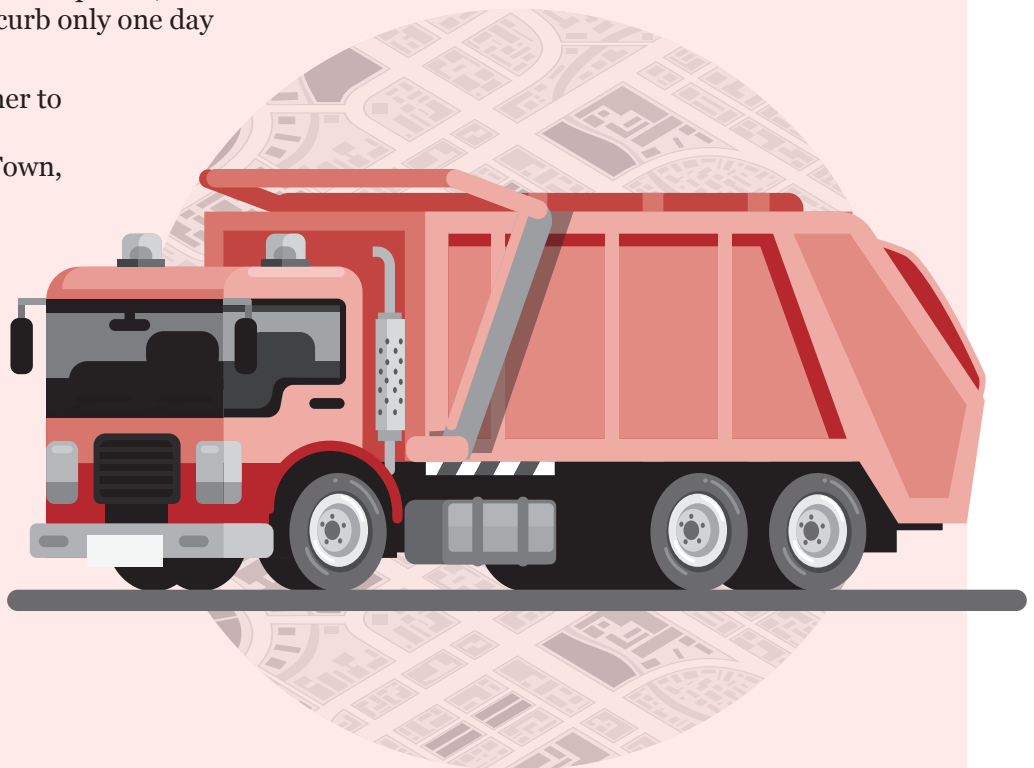
Refuse Districts Are Catching On!

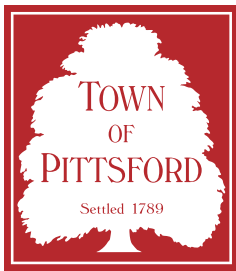
January 1-April 30 is the enrollment period for establishing a refuse district in your neighborhood for service to begin January 1 next year.

A refuse district is a designated area where a single refuse collector serves all households in the district. Refuse districts have many advantages. Since the Town started its Refuse District program in 2019, they've become increasingly popular. Pittsford now has 3,323 homes enrolled in refuse districts, comprising 36% of all households in the Town. District residents enjoy lower costs, fewer bills and decreased traffic in their neighborhoods, making neighborhoods quieter, safer and healthier. Trash and recycling are out at the curb only one day each week.

It's up to residents to decide whether to create a refuse district for their neighborhood. Working with the Town, residents decide what area a new district will cover. Then, the Town helps by providing each household with the petition the homeowners must submit to create the district.

Petitions can be submitted between January 1 and April 30 of each year to create a refuse district for service starting at the beginning of the following year. To learn more about refuse districts, including how to establish one for your neighborhood, visit www.townofpittsford.org/refuse-districts.





11 South Main Street
Pittsford, New York 14534
(585) 248-6200

Supervisor

William A. Smith, Jr.

Town Board

Kim C. Taylor

Deputy Town Supervisor

Naveen Havannavar

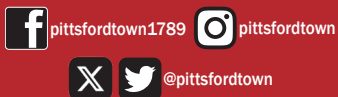
Cathleen A. Koshykar

Stephanie M. Townsend

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TOWN OF PITTSFORD!**

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Town of Pittsford on social media.

You can find us on:



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The Pittsford Messenger Spring 2025

www.townofpittsford.org

Pittsford Recreation Has Plans!

Mark your calendar for the months ahead:

- **Earth Day Celebration** – Tuesday, April 22
- **Paddle and Pour** – Saturday, May 24
- **Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony** –
Monday, May 26
- **Meet the Machines** – Saturday, May 31

Now is the time to start planning for summer camp! Pittsford Recreation offers **Summer Fun! Day Camp** for ages 5-13 and **Summer Fun! Juniors** for ages 3-5. Each week features an exciting new theme. Register soon to ensure your child has a space, at www.townofpittsford.org/recreation.

Details for these programs are in the Spring Recreation Brochure and can also be found at www.townofpittsford.org/recreation.

Upcoming Senior Center Programs:

- **"Using Matcha in Your Diet"** workshop on
Tuesday, April 15
- **"Spark Your Brain"** Workshop on Tuesday, April 29
- **Cooking Class** on Tuesday, May 13

Details for these Senior Center programs can be found at www.townofpittsford.org/seniors.

