

# News & Reviews

February 4, 2026

Town of Pittsford - a  
Clean Energy and Climate  
Smart Community

*See listings below for*  
***Upcoming Activities, Town Board Meetings & Community Meetings***



**SWEETHEART DANCE WITH A SOCK HOP TWIST IS THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
The Pittsford Recreation Department's ever-popular Sweetheart Dance is this **Friday, February 6, 2026**, from **6:30–9:00pm** at the **Spiegel Community Center**. This year, we're throwing it back to the **1950s with a fun sock hop theme!**

Children **ages 5–13**, accompanied by an adult, are invited to dance the night away at this memorable evening filled with music, refreshments, and plenty of fun. A DJ will keep the party going with lively tunes and activities, and guests are encouraged to dress in their favorite sock hop–inspired attire for this special night.

The cost is **\$20 per person**. There's still time to register, but space is limited, so the sooner the better! Register online at <https://bit.ly/3LeDbJL> or in person at the Spiegel Community Center.

The Town's Spiegel Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services, [click here to visit the Town](#) of Pittsford's Recreation page on the Town website, [email the Recreation Department here](#), or call the Spiegel Community Center at 585-248-6280.

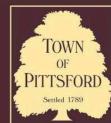
## PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS DUE BY 2/10

The interest-free Town and County property tax payment deadline is 2/10. First installments or full payments of your Town and County property taxes are due now. A payment coupon (see page 2 of the bill) must accompany your payment for efficient processing. Please include a phone number on your check.

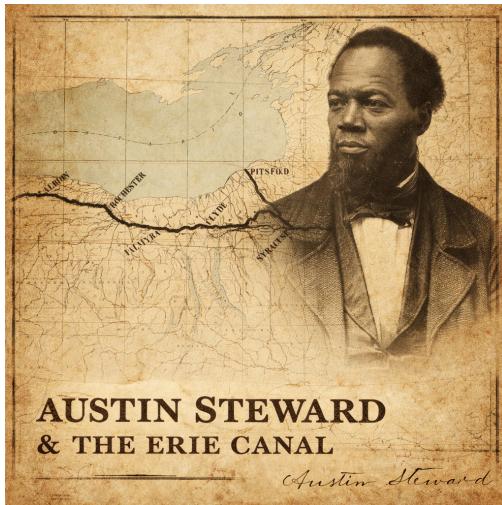
**How to make your payment:**

- **By mail to: Renee McQuillen, Receiver, 11 South Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534**
- **In person**, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm at Pittsford Town Hall, 11 South Main Street, or through the mail slots (into locked boxes) available 24/7, located at both the front and back entrances.
  - For cash payments, we ask that you bring the exact amount, and please call ahead for an appointment to ensure we have proper staffing
- **First Installments and full payments can also be made at Canandaigua National Bank, 18 State Street, in Pittsford Village, through February 10, 2026.**
- **Online** through Monroe County by credit card or check debit. Please note there is a 2.75% fee to pay by credit card and a sliding scale fee to pay by check debit. To pay online, click [HERE](#).
- **Reminder:** For those making installment payments, the second installment is due by February 28.

## Property Tax Information



**County Tax Law** imposes interest on any payment made after February 10. **The Town has no authority whatsoever to waive or excuse payment of interest, regardless of the reason for late payment.** Therefore, by law, the Town is not permitted to do so.



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AUSTIN STEWARD, THE ERIE CANAL, AND A PITTSFORD CONNECTION

The “Canal Age,” which took place roughly between the 1810s and the 1850s, saw the extensive construction of a network of engineered waterways. Canals reshaped how people, goods, and information moved across the states. They were built for commerce in a nation where much of the economy was sustained by slave labor.

The Erie Canal would prove to be different. Built to create a direct water route from New

York City to the Great Lakes, bypassing the Appalachian Mountains, the canal opened up westward expansion, facilitated trade, and drastically lowered shipping costs. However, the same Erie Canal that helped move slave-produced goods would also become a critical pathway for communication, reform movements, and, for some, a route north toward freedom in Canada.

**Austin Steward** was an African American abolitionist, author, and businessman who escaped slavery and settled in Rochester. Steward opened a butcher shop just steps from the Erie Canal. His business afforded him the ability to participate in the abolitionist cause at a time when canal routes allowed reform ideas and publications to travel quickly between cities.

In 1831, Steward became involved with the Wilberforce Colony, a refuge in Canada for free Black families facing persecution in American cities. Many freedom seekers

traveled the canal to Buffalo, where they crossed Lake Ontario to safety. Historians note that communities along the canal developed strong abolitionist networks, and towns along the waterway later became associated with Underground Railroad assistance. One of those towns was Pittsford.

Judge Ashley Sampson is widely believed to have been a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad. He resided in the historic Hargous-Briggs House on South Main Street, a short walk from the canal. Local tradition suggests he hid those seeking freedom in a large, unused bake oven in the basement of his home.

Sampson lived during the same era and was roughly the same age as Steward. While no record confirms the two men ever met, both were connected to canal communities at a time when the waterway linked people, places, and causes. It's possible their paths crossed, or that they at least knew of one another.

What is certain is that heroes like Austin Steward and Underground Railroad stationmasters across New York were able to use the Erie Canal to further the abolitionist cause. Some slaveholders believed expanded canal networks would tie Northern commerce more closely to an economy sustained by enslaved labor. What they did not anticipate was that the Erie Canal would carry far more than commercial goods, moving ideas, literature, and people between places like Rochester, Buffalo, and Pittsford.

In one of history's great ironic twists, the canal built for commerce and expansion became a quiet corridor for courage, connection, and the long journey toward freedom.

Today, the National Park Service recognizes the [Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor](#) for its connection to communities later associated with Underground Railroad Activity. Learn more by visiting their website.

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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE OF PITTSFORD: CANAL USE & PERMITTING REMINDER

The New York State Canal Corporation has notified municipalities along the canal system that all activities on Canal property require a permit, regardless of whether the use is recreational, commercial, or personal.



#### These activities include but are not limited to:

- Ice skating
- Fishing
- Hockey or organized games
- Any other recreational or commercial use

Unpermitted use may be subject to fines issued by the Canal Corporation. Note that the village has no authority over canal property regarding enforcement. Please remember activities on the frozen canal may have significant safety issues, including the risk of a canal failure resulting in water flooding on the ice, imperiling the safety of those on the canal at the time of and after any such failure.



## STORY STROLL FEATURES "THE LONELY OTTER: A HEART-WARMING TALE ABOUT LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP," FEBRUARY 9-15

Families are invited to enjoy the next Story Stroll, taking place **February 9-15**, featuring the picture book **"The Lonely Otter: A Heart-Warming Story About Love and Friendship"** by Clare Victoria Wilson. Visitors of all ages can enjoy a leisurely Story Stroll in the Spiegel Community Center while reading this lovely book about finding one's place in the world.

In this gentle and engaging story, Otter feels lonely and unsure of where exactly he fits in. As he meets other animals throughout the story, he learns about friendship, self-acceptance, and the importance of being true to oneself. With its warm message and charming illustrations, *The Lonely Otter* is a thoughtful and enjoyable read for children and families.

Participants are welcome to read the story at their own pace. After completing the Story Stroll, families may stop by the front desk to pick up a **themed craft pack to take home**, while supplies last. Craft packs are available Monday through Saturday from 8:00am–5:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am–5:00pm.

The Town's Spiegel Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services, [click here to visit the Town](#) of Pittsford's Recreation page on the Town website, [email the Recreation Department here](#), or call the Spiegel Community Center at 585-248-6280.

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## SENIORS VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

**FEB. 13**

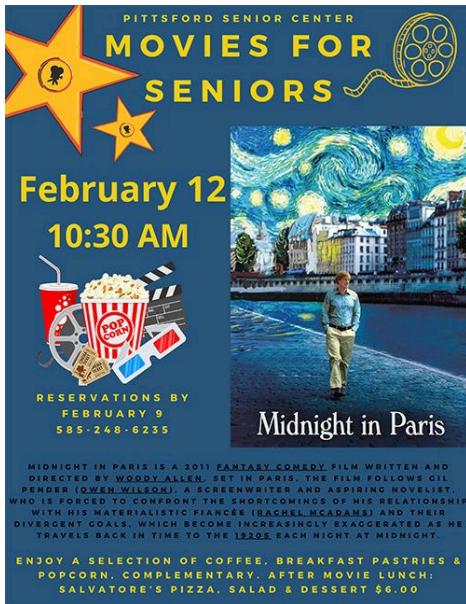
*Reservations due Sunday 2/8*

Seniors, join us on **February 13 at Noon** for a Valentine's Celebration with a meal provided by Chef Carlos and music from the Nate Rawls Jazz Trio. The menu includes grilled lemon chicken, asparagus, and rice with garbanzo beans and lemon sauce. The meal is accompanied by a "Pretty in Pink" lemonade spritz and strawberry mousse for dessert.

The lunch and program will be held in the VanHuysen Community Room. Cost is \$8.00 per person. **Advance registration is required by February 8**. For more information and to register, stop by the Senior Programs office at the Spiegel Community Center or call 248-6235.

The Town's Spiegel Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services for seniors, [click here to visit the Seniors' page](#) on the Town website, [read our Seniors program info brochure online](#), or call the Senior Programs Office at 248-6235.





## SENIORS MOVIE MATINEE FEB. 12: "MIDNIGHT IN PARIS"

*Reservations required by Monday, Feb. 9*

Seniors are invited to attend a free morning movie matinee on **Thursday, Feb. 12 at 10:30am**, featuring *Midnight in Paris*, a fantasy comedy starring Owen Wilson.

Set in Paris, the film follows a writer who is mysteriously transported back to the 1920s each evening, where he encounters legendary artists and writers. The movie offers a lighthearted exploration of creativity, nostalgia and the idea of living in another time.

Complimentary coffee, breakfast pastries and popcorn will be available during the movie. An optional lunch of pizza, salad and dessert will follow.

The movie begins at **10:30am** in the **VanHuysen Community Room at the Spiegel Community Center**. The movie and snacks are free. The optional lunch costs \$6 per person.

Advance registration for the movie and optional lunch is required by Feb. 9. To register, call the Pittsford Senior Programs Office at 585-248-6235.

The Town's Senior Center is located within the Spiegel Community Center at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services for seniors, [click here to visit the Seniors' page](#) on the Town website, [read our Seniors program info brochure online](#) or call the Senior Programs Office at 248-6235.

## SENIORS WITH PANTHER PALS CRAFTS – 2/13

The Pittsford Senior Center invites seniors to enjoy a fun, intergenerational crafting experience with the Panther Pals on **Friday, February 13**, from **10:30–11:00am** in Room 4 of the Spiegel Community Center.

Participants will spend time crafting together and painting a heart-themed canvas picture frame to take home. All supplies are provided, making this a relaxed and creative opportunity to connect, socialize, and celebrate the season.

**Advance sign-up is required by February 10.**

To register or for more information, please call the Pittsford Senior Center at (585) 248-6235.

The Town's Senior Center is located within the Spiegel Community Center at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services for seniors, [click here to visit the Seniors' page](#) on the Town





## Upcoming Events & Programs at the Library!

For a complete schedule of programs & events at the Pittsford Community Library, please visit the Library's online calendar! <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/Pittsford/>

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE PITTSFORD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Pittsford Community Library continues to offer an engaging mix of educational, cultural, and community-centered programs for residents of all ages this February.

History enthusiasts can explore Rochester's abolitionist legacy during [Flight to Freedom: Rochester's Underground Railroad](#) on **Saturday, February 14, from 2:00–3:00pm** in the Fisher Meeting Room. Educators from the Rochester

Museum & Science Center will share stories of local abolitionists and Rochester's role in this pivotal period of American history. Adults and teens are welcome; registration is recommended.

Adults seeking enrichment and support will find several thoughtful programs this month. [Gardening & Wellness](#) will be held via Zoom on **Monday, February 9, from 6:30–7:30pm**, presented by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Registration with an email address is required to receive the Zoom link.

On **Sunday, February 15, from 2:00–3:00pm**, the Fisher Meeting Room hosts [Our Last Walk Home: Love, Cancer, and the Agony of Letting Go](#), a reflective program exploring caregiving, loss, and resilience. Later in the month, caregivers can attend [The Empowered Caregiver: Building Foundations of Caregiving](#) on **Thursday, February 19, from 1:00–2:00pm** for practical guidance and support.



Music lovers can gather friends and family for [All Ages Bingo](#) on **Tuesday, February 17**, from **6:30–7:30pm** in the Fisher Meeting Room for a lively evening of classic fun open to all generations.

Those interested in art, culture, and history can attend [The Language of Icons](#) on **Tuesday, February 17**, from **12:30–2:00pm** in the Fisher Meeting Room, and [Timepiece Tales](#) on **Saturday, February 21, from 2:00–3:00pm**, a fascinating look at the stories behind historic timekeeping devices.

Teens have opportunities to learn creative skills and give back. [Paper Marbling for Teens](#) will be held on **Thursday, February 19, from 3:00–4:30pm** in the Fisher Meeting Room, where students in grades 6–12 can experiment with marbling techniques.

Younger children can enjoy several hands-on programs designed just for them. [Lego Club](#) meets tomorrow, **Thursday, February 5, from 4:00–4:45pm** in the Storytale Room for ages 5–10, offering both guided challenges and free building time. Families with little ones can attend [Wunderville Story Time](#) on **Saturday, February 7, from 10:30–11:15am**, featuring stories, songs, and activities led by teachers from Wunderville Preschool.



For a full article detailing further information and registration details about these programs, please visit: [townofpittsford.org/news/upcoming-programs-pittsford-community-library](http://townofpittsford.org/news/upcoming-programs-pittsford-community-library). To learn about the many other programs the Library is offering this month and going forward, please visit the Library's [interactive online calendar](#).

The Pittsford Community Library is located at 24 State Street. To learn more about upcoming Library programs, sign up for the [Library's weekly eNewsletter](#), visit the [Library's online program calendar](#), or call (585) 248-6275. For complete Library information, including hours of operation, visit [www.townofpittsford.org/library](http://www.townofpittsford.org/library).



#### BLOOD DRIVE AT THE LIBRARY THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

The Town of Pittsford will host a Red Cross blood drive this **Friday, February 6, from 10:00am-3:00pm** at the Pittsford Community Library in the Fisher Meeting Room. The Library is located at 24 State Street in the Village of Pittsford.

Those who give blood through February 28 will receive a \$20 e-gift card to the merchant of their choice. See <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for further details.

Maximize your blood donation and help more patients! If you are an eligible type O, B, or A donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most transfused blood component.

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but it can make an enormous difference in the lives of others. If you are eligible and feeling well, please make an appointment today to give by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 800-RED-CROSS.

#### ROTARY CLUB DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE THIS SATURDAY

The [Rotary Club of Pittsford](#) helps make winter a little easier for those in need through its monthly food collection drives. The Rotary's next Drive-thru Food Drive is this Saturday, February 7, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the Pittsford Sutherland High School bus loop. In addition to supporting the [Pittsford Food Cupboard](#), donations will also support the [Nazareth University Oak Tree Food Pantry](#). Rotarians and Interact Club members will be collecting at the drive, snow or shine!

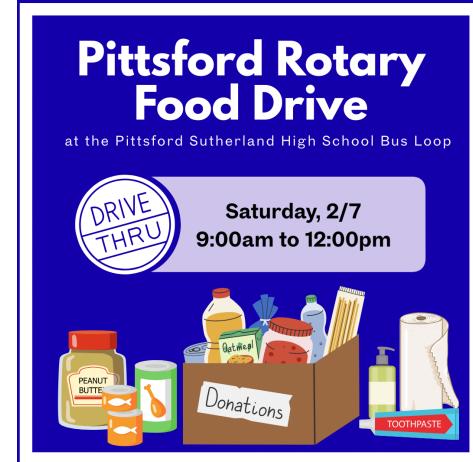
In addition, a portion of this month's donations will support the development of a Little Food Pantry, an Eagle Scout project by Ethan Ingalsbe, who will be at Saturday's drive. He plans to open the pantry at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsford and is seeking materials and food to stock it.

[The Pittsford Food Cupboard](#) plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity within our community. Donations help ensure that local families have access to essential food items and will promote well-being and stability.

Specifically needed food pantry items include taco shells, taco seasoning, salsa, and canned pineapple. The food pantry has no more room for kidney beans, black beans, white beans, or green beans.

[The Oak Tree Pantry](#) serves those with food insecurity in the Nazareth community. The pantry can use granola bars, pasta, peanut butter, and soap products.

The Pittsford Food Cupboard also has an [Amazon Wish List](#) that you can access and donate to at any time.



## PITTSFORD PTSA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Each spring, the Pittsford PTSA presents the New York State PTA Honorary Life Membership Award to community members who have gone above and beyond in serving Pittsford youth. The award recognizes individuals whose volunteer efforts or professional contributions exceed normal expectations and make a lasting impact on young people in our community.

**Nominees must demonstrate dedication to Pittsford youth in three areas:**

- Significant volunteer efforts or contributions beyond normal job responsibilities.
- Outstanding personal qualities that make them a positive role model.
- Ongoing willingness and availability to serve youth, directly or administratively.

Recipients are selected by a PTSA committee from nominations submitted by the wider Pittsford community. A list of past award recipients is available to view.

### Nomination Process

The nomination process includes three phases:

- **Phase 1: Pre-Nomination Application (opens January 1; deadline February 13, 2026)**
  - A lead sponsor submits the nominee's name, volunteer activities, and a brief statement describing how the nominee meets the criteria.
- **Phase 2: Support Letters (deadline March 27, 2026)**
  - Approved nominees will require seven letters of support—one from the lead sponsor and six from community members—detailing the nominee's long-term contributions to Pittsford youth.
- **Phase 3: Recipient Selection**

- Recipients and sponsors will be notified by **March 29, 2026**, and invited to the ceremony.

For more information, contact Awards Committee Chair **Kristin Rohlf**s.

## 2026 Awards Ceremony

The Honorary Life Membership Awards will be presented on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 7:00–8:30pm**.

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### THE LITTLE HOUSE OPEN THIS SATURDAY, FEB.

7

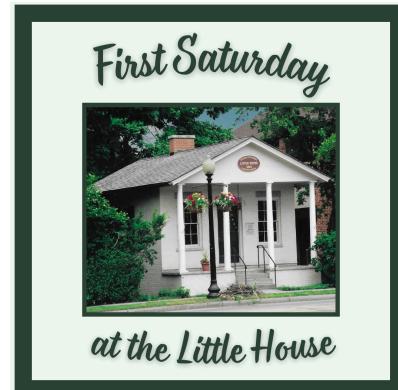
What was Pittsford in 1776? What remains of the Haudenosaunee presence and the earliest settlers after the Revolution?

Visit Historic Pittsford's Little House on **Saturday, February 7**, and meet members of the Board and neighbors interested in our community's history.

Historic Pittsford's Little House, now more than 200 years old, will be open from **9:00am to noon**. The Little House is located at 18 Monroe Avenue in the heart of the Village, right next to the fire station. Many visitors have walked past this small, columned building and wondered what was inside. Here is the perfect chance to explore this two-room former lawyer's office and learn its history.

Historic Pittsford is preparing to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and is studying the period when this area was Haudenosaunee land and on the western frontier of settlement by former colonists and their families. We are interested in information about the Revolution, the Haudenosaunee, and the early post-revolution settlers. Please join them this Saturday for lively discussions!

If you are interested in local history, would like to learn more about Historic Pittsford and the Little House, or are curious about an early Pittsford family or property, stop in to speak with Historic Pittsford board members. The Little House is also open by appointment. Call (585) 381-2941 or email [HistoricPittsford@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricPittsford@gmail.com) to schedule a time to visit. Visit [HistoricPittsford.com](http://HistoricPittsford.com) for more information.



### UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN PITTSFORD

- [Red Cross Blood Drive at Pittsford Community Library](#), Friday, 2/6, 10:00am-3:00pm, Pittsford Community Library Fisher Meeting Room, 24 State Street; [schedule an appointment in advance using this online registration link](#) or call 1800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Sweetheart Dance (Sock Hop Theme)**, Children ages 5–13, accompanied by an adult, can dance the night away at this fun, 1950s-style sock hop, Friday, 2/6, 6:30–9:00pm, Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue; music, DJ and activities; advance registration required, \$20 per person; register online at [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org)
- [Pittsford Rotary Food Drive](#), Saturday, 2/7, 9:00am - 12noon, Pittsford Sutherland High School bus loop, 55 Sutherland Street, collecting canned and packaged food items and personal hygiene items to benefit the [Pittsford Food Cupboard](#), [Nazareth University Oak Tree Food Pantry](#), (click links for complete lists of needs); gently used recent (past 12 months) magazines are also needed.

- **“The Lonely Otter: A Heart-Warming Story About Love and Friendship” Story Stroll**, 2/9 – 2/15, inside the Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue; stop by the Community Center front desk after completing the walk to pick up a themed craft pack to take home; free and open to the public.

## TOWN OF PITTSFORD BOARD MEETINGS

- **Planning Board**, Monday, 2/9, 6:30pm, Public Meeting Room, Town Hall (lower level), 11 South Main Street; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: [www.townofpittsford.org/minutes](http://www.townofpittsford.org/minutes)
- **Pittsford Community Library Board**, Wednesday, 2/11, 6:00pm, Fletcher Steele Room, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: [www.townofpittsford.org/minutes](http://www.townofpittsford.org/minutes)
- **Design Review & Historic Preservation Board**, Thursday, 2/12, 6:00pm, Public Meeting Room, Town Hall (lower level), 11 South Main Street; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: [www.townofpittsford.org/minutes](http://www.townofpittsford.org/minutes)
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**, Thursday, 2/12, 6:30pm, Spiegel Pittsford Community Center – Room 207, 35 Lincoln Avenue; the meeting agenda is posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the Town website here: [www.townofpittsford.org/minutes](http://www.townofpittsford.org/minutes)

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS CALENDAR

- [Village Board of Trustees](#) meetings are generally the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00pm, Village Hall, 21 North Main Street; more information and participation details will be listed on the Village website [here](#) as the meeting date approaches
- [American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899](#) Tuesday morning breakfast and socializing, every Tuesday, 8:00-9:30am (kitchen closes at 9:15am), Post 899, Pittsford Village Hall lower level, 21 North Main Street; open to all – meet and socialize with veterans; no charge but donations accepted. Eligible veterans welcome to join the Post; click this link for [membership information](#) or visit the [Rayson-Miller Post website](#)
- [Pittsford Rotary Club](#), Wednesdays (weekly), 7:00am, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street; meetings also can be accessed live via Zoom - check the Pittsford Rotary Facebook page for virtual meeting details
- [Women's Club of Pittsford](#) – charitable organization serving the community through service projects and civic improvement; membership is open to any woman living in Pittsford or the surrounding areas, new members always welcome! Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of the month, September through June, at 6:00pm at the Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue; Visit the website at [www.womensclubofpittsford.org](http://www.womensclubofpittsford.org) for more information
- [Pittsford Art Group](#) conducts monthly member meetings (in person and online) featuring a guest artist; new members are welcome! The PAG also hosts juried and non-juried shows and displays artwork at various locations throughout Pittsford. For further information or to become a member, please visit [www.pittsfordartgroup.com](http://www.pittsfordartgroup.com) and fill out a [Contact Us](#) form.

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