

# THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER

www.townofpittsford.org

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#### From the Supervisor

## Budget 2021 Holds Town Tax Rate Flat

#### Town Tax Still Less Than 9 Cents of Every Dollar You Pay in Property Tax

After hearing advice and ideas from residents who contacted me or spoke to me about the preliminary budget, and review at Town Board, the Town Finance Director and I went to work with our department heads and others, to come up with a Town budget for 2021 that holds the line on the tax rate without compromising the services we all depend on, and expect.

We succeeded. The tax rate stays flat into 2021. As a result, Town tax remains proportionally low. Town tax continues to comprise less than nine cents (\$0.09) of every dollar in property taxes paid by Pittsford residents.

#### **COVID's Impact Affecting Budgeting for 2021**

In 2020 the Town's revenues declined severely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will continue to have a similar effect in 2021. Moreover, it presents us with many sheer unknowns.

The points below illustrate the shocks to the budget in 2020, in terms of decreases in expected revenues due to the pandemic:

| Total Revenue Losses 2020          |        | - \$632,443 |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Interest Revenue                   | - 31%  | - \$69,000  |
| Library Fees                       | - 66%  | - \$29,993  |
| Recreation Fees                    | - 173% | - \$240,249 |
| State Aid to Municipalities (AIM)  | - 20%  | - \$21,616  |
| State Local Street Program (CHIPS) | - 20%  | - \$48,374  |
| Sales Tax                          | - 13%  | - \$223,211 |

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#### **Active Transportation Plan Approved**

Collaborative plan will make Pittsford even more walkable, more conducive to bicycling – and safer for both

In December the Town and Village Boards, meeting in joint session, approved the joint Town-Village Active Transportation Plan.

This culminates a thorough public process based on work by a Town-Village Citizens' Committee, the plan consultant and by citizens of Pittsford in the public workshops. The Town-Wide Survey on the Plan, and last year's Community Survey that included issues relevant to the Plan, gave shape to the final product as the process proceeded.

A healthy and sustainable community is a principal goal for both the Town and Village administrations. The Plan



Bill Smith Town Supervisor

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Find current Town COVID-19 updates for facilities, services and programs at www.townofpittsford.org/ cov<u>id19i</u>nfo



#### Budget 2021 Holds Town Tax Rate Flat

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It is possible that for AIM funding, the reduction for 2020 will be 100%. A 20% reduction represents the best current estimate and is shown in the chart.

#### **Additional Expenses**

In addition to the COVID-related and other revenue decreases detailed above, the Town has incurred unanticipated COVID-related expenses. These include \$75,000 for Plexiglas, technology protective upgrades, sanitizer stands/dispensers, thermometers, soap, gloves, paper products, signage, work pods, masks and the like, and an additional \$184,289 for the Pandemic Time Bank established for our employees and \$34,638 in payment to employees for pandemic-related childcare. Together with other unanticipated expenses for equipment to maintain the brush and leaf pickup uninterrupted as well as road repair, and non-routine vehicle maintenance, these expenses add up to more than \$388,927.

The State-mandated increase in the minimum wage alone adds \$170,621 in additional costs to Town taxpayers in 2021. This number does not include increases due to the cascading effects of the minimum wage hike throughout our wage scales.

#### Despite COVID Impacts, Town Tax Rate Stays Flat How did we do it?

**1. More accurate cost projections.** Estimating expenses for the year ahead begins with understanding actual costs incurred during the current year. We compiled the data that went into the preliminary form of the budget. After the preliminary budget was drafted, additional cost data came in that pointed to lower costs going forward in several categories. This we took into account.

**2. Spending reductions.** Given the resurgence in COVID that emerged between my submitting the preliminary budget and presenting the final budget proposal, it was no longer realistic to think that the Town would be able to hold many of the traditional public events that I included in the preliminary budget. The final 2021 budget eliminated funding for the Car Show, a public festival, expenses for bands and other events.

The cuts reduced to 1% the cost-of-living adjustment for employees who are paid more than \$75,000 per year, from the 2% originally proposed. Most towns in Monroe County for which we have information are providing a 2% cost-ofliving increase to all employees; one has it at 3%. I continue to believe that a COL adjustment for our employees is both justified and well-earned by them, especially for service above and beyond since the onset of COVID.

As in the preliminary budget, the final budget provides for **no increase** at all to compensation for elected officials.

Other cuts for 2021 include replacing furniture in the Library. Some maintenance items and equipment acquisitions have been deferred as well.

**3.** A history of conservative budgeting. Because of its careful management of Town finances over not just years but decades, Pittsford has adequate reserves, in keeping with the State Comptroller's guidelines, to help us through economic downturns such as we're experiencing as a consequence of the pandemic. Thus the 2021 budget will fund our stepped-up neighborhood street and road repaving effort from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund, rather than from contemporaneous revenues to be taken in during the year. Of course, this reduces

## Pittsford Receives Over \$84K in CARES Act Funds

In early December, Supervisor Bill Smith signed an Inter-municipal Agreement between the Town and Monroe County for the Town to receive more than \$84,000 in funding under the CARES Act provided by the County. These funds will help recoup some of the COVID-19 expenses the Town has incurred – expenses such as Plexiglas, sanitizer stands and dispensers, work pods, personal protective equipment, additional laptops, technology protective upgrades, thermometers, signage, etc.

Supervisor Smith expressed thanks to the Town staff, especially Finance Director Brian Luke, Assistant to the Commissioner of Public Works Renee McQuillen and IT Director Joy Brown, who pulled together the data supporting the Town's application and made this award possible.

He thanked County Executive Adam Bello for making this funding available to Pittsford, and thanked County Legislators representing Pittsford – Howard Maffucci, Karla Boyce and Mike Yudelson – for supporting it.

Said Supervisor Smith, "I value the strong cooperative relationship between the County and the Town that makes successes like this possible. As I'll never tire of saying, both within our own community and in our relations with other communities and other levels of government, we work best when we work together."

## Find Library Program Updates on Facebook and Instagram

As we head into the winter months, the Pittsford Community Library staff is focusing on our community and thinking about how best to serve our residents. Our Library team will continue to prioritize safety with in-person services, and expand digital collections and programs. For updated program information, follow them on Facebook at www. facebook.com/PittsfordLibrary and Instagram at www.instagram. com/pittsfordcommunitylibrary and visit their updates web page at www.bit.ly/pclupdates.

## Budget 2021 Holds Town Tax Rate Flat

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funds available in that reserve. Yet, unprecedented circumstances call for more aggressive measures to avoid additional burden to taxpayers. We can add back to the highway fund over time. Beyond that the 2021 budget uses an additional \$79,330 in reserve funds to close the gap and keep the tax rate flat.

As a family would do with its savings account, we turn to these funds with care. This is definitely a time when we can be glad we have them to use. The final 2021 budget uses the additional \$79,330 from reserves as the final change from the preliminary budget to keep the tax rate flat. Yet it retains our municipal "savings account" at a reasonable level, to protect tax stability and protect taxpayers going forward.

#### **Looking Ahead**

Pittsford's longstanding record of fiscal responsibility and careful budgeting practices have placed the Town in a strong position to meet the fiscal challenges imposed by COVID and other factors, while protecting taxpayers by holding the tax rate flat

#### for 2021.

For another year, the budget for 2021 maintains and improves the essential services that contribute to the quality of life of Pittsford residents. It reinforces my commitment to an aggressive road repaving program, to building stronger neighborhoods, to continual improvement and to services of importance to youth and seniors.

The 2021 budget provides the following services and amenities, among others:

- Another \$100,000, in addition to the 2020 increase of \$272,000, to the road repaving and repair budget, totaling \$372,000 in increased funding for road repair since calendar year 2018
- \$100,000 for projects in the Active Transportation Plan
- \$22,000 for Pedestrian Safety and measures to reduce speeding
- \$11,000 for a Crossing Guard at Allen's Creek School
- \$13,500 for new trail maintenance machinery
- Increased funding to Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance

- Funding for the 4.5% increase in medical expenses for Town employees
- Cost of Living increase of 2% for Town Staff earning less than \$75,000 and 1% for those above it, with no increase for elected officials
- 5.8% increase in funding for Pittsford Youth Services. This represents a total increase in Town funding for PYS since 2017 of 69%.
- Funding for a grant-writer, to help the Town take better advantage of state and other grants, further protecting taxpayers.

Notwithstanding uncertainties in revenues going forward in the era of COVID, the 2021 budget maintains the increases in funding for senior citizens' programs and services. Funds continue to support lunch and nutrition programs.

#### Forward-Looking Policies Protect Taxpayers

Pittsford taxpayers continue to benefit from the forward-thinking of the Town administration and its predecessors. The Finger Lakes Municipal Healthcare Trust – a statewide model for shared services, initiated by the Town of

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#### **Active Transportation Plan Approved**

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represents another step toward that goal. It's about nonmotorized ways of getting around. Its goals are to make Pittsford even more walkable and more conducive to bicycling, to improve and extend Town Trails and to improve safety for everyone on foot, or on a bike.

As the Plan came together, in recent years both the Town and Village moved forward with elements of the Plan that have public support. For example, for the Town we've:

- Built and completed the East Avenue Sidewalk
- Completed a trail connecting the Auburn Trail and the Canal Towpath as part of our new Nature Preserve
- Improved and cleared most of the Auburn Trail, with more to come
- · Completed remapping all 86 miles of Town trails

- Launched the "Trails Passport Program" to encourage use of our trails
- Carried forward planning for safe pedestrian crosswalks on Thornell Road and Railroad Mills Road
- Engaged with the Town of Perinton about a trail connecting Bushnell's Basin to Thornell Road
- Worked with the County on the planned replacement the culverts along Stone Road, the necessary first step to construct the Stone Road Multi-use Trail

There's a lot in this Plan, so there's more to be done. That's why the Town Budget for 2021 funds:

- \$100,000 for Active Transportation Plan projects
- · New Trail building and maintenance machinery
- A part-time Grant-Writing position, to help us go after grants to pay for improvements included in the Active Transportation Plan

#### Budget 2021 Holds Town Tax Rate Flat

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Pittsford – continues to save the Town substantial additional expense every year. As a result, the increase in medical costs is confined to 4.5% for next year, rather than a multiple of that. Incorporating the Senior Center in the renovated Spiegel Community Center has saved approximately \$100,000 in rent payments annually for the previous Senior facility.

The Town's Greenprint Plan, which I supported and voted to approve in 1996 as a Town Councilman, continues to benefit taxpayers year after year. Not just by its substantial contribution to the aesthetic character of the Town by preserving expanses of open countryside. By preventing development on the lands protected by the Greenprint, we avoid altogether the pressure for additional Town and School services, and the consequent costs to taxpayers that would have been generated if these lands had been developed.

#### Summary

The 2021 Town Budget holds Pittsford's Town tax rate flat.

Town Taxes remain less than 9 cents out of every dollar you pay in property tax.

Of the 18 towns in Monroe County, Pittsford still has the 7th lowest town tax rate. If you exclude from the comparison those towns that receive revenues from landfills, and those that have commercial areas much more extensive and congested than Pittsford's, we're the 5th lowest. And Pittsford provides a complete bundle of municipal services that none of the other lower-taxed towns do, including leaf pick up, yard debris pick up, a recreation program and a Town-financed library.

The 2021 budget maintains and improves the services that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by Pittsford residents. It reinforces my commitment to building stronger neighborhoods, to continual improvement and to services of importance to youth and seniors. The budget builds upon a longstanding fiscal record that protects taxpayers and reaffirms the Town's commitment to responsible budgetary practices. The 2021 budget gives Pittsford a budget in full compliance with the New York State Property Tax Cap – because there is no increase to the tax rate at all.

My thanks to those Pittsford residents, representing a broad cross-section of our community, who offered practical suggestions and advice that influenced our thinking in refining the preliminary budget proposal. Ideas grounded in reality, experience, intelligence and good will have a way of asserting themselves. They're always welcomed by me and our Town staff.

## A Triple-A Rating for a Triple-A Town

Maintaining the Town's credit rating is no small feat. It is the highest possible – Triple-A. This is much more than a report card on municipal fiscal management. It represents substantial, ongoing savings to Pittsford taxpayers by keeping down the rate of interest we pay on Town bonds, for such things as the Greenprint, the new Community Center, the Library and the Park and the recent Athletic Field improvements. Pittsford remains not merely the only town in upstate New York to have earned a perfect credit rating, but, according to the rating agency, Pittsford is the only municipality of its size *in the United States* to have a perfect credit rating.

## Kelly Cline Elected Fire District Commissioner



Congratulations to Kelly Cline, our Town Fire Marshal and Code Compliance Officer, for her election as a Commissioner of the Pittsford Fire

District. A long-time Town employee, Kelly has served as the Town's Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshal since 1999 and has been a firefighter with the Pittsford Fire Department since 1981. She becomes Pittsford's first female Fire Commissioner. Her dedication to community service and to the safety of our residents is outstanding.

## Active Transportation Plan Approved

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Among our community's great strengths is the close and successful working relationship between the Town and Village governments. Special thanks to Mayor Corby and to Village Trustee Renee Stetzer for their work on the Plan as members of the steering committee.

Thanks to the residents who served on the Citizens' Committee, and to all of our residents who gave shape and meaning to this Plan with their participation in the workshops, the Active Transportation Plan Survey, the Community Survey and their communications to both Town Hall and the Village Hall.

Check the Town website and Supervisor Smith's Facebook page for updates on carrying out the Active Transportation Plan's recommendations. Planned improvements will make Pittsford even more of a healthy and sustainable community.



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.

#### **Community Solar Administrator to Correct Problem with Mailing for Public Meeting**

Another meeting to be scheduled and additional mailing sent

The third-party Administrator for our Community Solar program, Joule Community Power/Roctricity, was supposed to have sent a letter to every Pittsford household in time for delivery well before an initial meeting scheduled for December 16. The Town furnished Joule/Roctricity with the final form of camera-ready letter on November 23.

The letters never arrived in time, because the Administrator used bulk mail, instead of First Class as it should have and as we expected.

The same thing happened in Irondequoit, which is using the same Administrator.

Coming Together Through Community Solar Because the letters arrived weeks after the meeting, many people missed it.

Supervisor Smith has required Joule/Roctricity to hold a second public meeting. This time the Town will do the mailing, which will be by First Class mail. As with the first mailing, it will be paid for by Joule/Roctricity. The date of the meeting is being finalized now; it will be an online meeting. The Town will also publicize the meeting on the Town website, on social media and in our eNews.

If you would like to view the December 16, 2020 meeting, you can find it here: https://presskithero.com/p/mcp/videos.

You'll find the Town's Community Solar web page at **www. townofpittsford.org/community-solar-pittsford**. As always, should you have any specific questions, please call the program helpline directly at **(585) 244-0244**.

At the Town's request, the Administrator is revising its website to clarify instructions for signing up and making it easier to do so, and to further assure complete confidentiality of any information submitted when enrolling.

The Community Solar program allows residents and small businesses in Pittsford to subscribe to a local solar farm and save up to 10% on electric bills, while supporting local renewable energy generation. We appreciate your understanding as we work with Joule to ensure you have the information you need to take advantage of our Community Solar program, the next step in Pittsford's long legacy of commitment to a healthy and sustainable environment.

## Nature Preserve Grand Opening Set for this Spring

Already, many residents have visited our Erie Canal Nature Preserve, an exceptional 20-acre parcel of natural beauty. Together with the proposed adjacent 10-acre Village Arboretum, residents will have access to a 30-acre wildlife sanctuary located in the walkable heart of our community.

It is a unique achievement for a Town and Village to preserve such a significant portion of natural open space. Doing so protects a healthy and safe home for local wildlife. It provides a beautiful and restorative space for all of our community members to enjoy. Just as importantly, preserving this space advances our commitment to a more sustainable future.

We'll hold the official ribbon cutting for the Erie Canal Nature Preserve in the spring. Details will be forthcoming – be sure to check the Town eNews for updates.



## A Different Halloween Celebration this Year

Pandemic guidelines prevented our usual Family Halloween Fest this year but we still had some spooky fun and collected donations for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Thanks to our Recreation Department staff, our Halloween Drive-In Movie and Costume Parade at Sutherland High School was a fun and safe way to celebrate the season.



#### **Comprehensive Plan Guides Zoning Updates**

A recent development project provided an opportunity to consider Town zoning codes based upon the Town Comprehensive Plan. To consider the Florida West project, a working group was created that included Deputy Town Supervisor Kate Bohne Munzinger and Town Council member Kevin Beckford working together with Town staff members and representatives from the Town's Planning Board and Design Review & Historic Preservation Board. In assessing the project, the group considered key points from the Comprehensive Plan, including:

- Preserving community character
- Strong neighborhoods
- Preserving open space

These priorities are reflected in the Town's updated Comprehensive Plan and in the results of the Town's most recent community survey.

The updated Comprehensive Plan marked the culmination of five years of intensive public engagement, including public workshops, interviews with a broad range of stakeholders representing the community, and the Citizens Committee that carried out the process with our professional consultant. It included as well our 2019 Community Survey, in which Pittsford residents stated views on many issues relevant to policy choices in a Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Smith has stated as a priority moving forward with provisions included in the Comprehensive Plan at his urging, to make possible more moderately priced housing for residents in their retirement years or contemplating retirement, and who wish to downsize but still live in Pittsford.

Upcoming changes to Town Zoning Code should be of importance to every resident. We'll need input from a broad cross-section of residents, representative of the whole community, to get it right. Public meeting dates will be announced soon.

#### Stay Safe: Wear a Mask, Keep Your Distance, Wash Your Hands

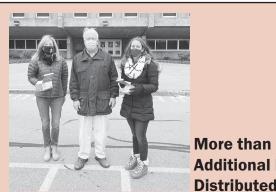
Safety PSA from Town, School District and Village

The cold weather means less opportunity for outdoor activities and services, bringing more people indoors. It's therefore more important than ever to take the simple steps to keep yourself, and others, safe. Town Supervisor Bill Smith, School Superintendent Mike Pero, School Board President Amy Thomas and Village Mayor Bob Corby remind you to wear a mask when you are among others outside of your immediate family, maintain a safe physical

distance and wash your hands frequently – especially after being out in public. To see their COVID-19 safety video message visit www. townofpittsford.org/covidsafety-video.

The health of our community - our people, our businesses, our services and amenities – affects us all and is our shared responsibility. We're all in this together. Please stay well, be safe and show your Pittsford Pride - wear vour mask!





### More than 18,000 Additional Masks Distributed

Pittsford School Board President Amy Thomas, Town Supervisor Bill Smith and Pittsford PTSA President Sarah Pelusio (pictured) were joined by School Superintendent Mike Pero, Pittsford Village Mayor Bob Corby, and County Legislator Howard Maffucci to distribute additional masks just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.



East Ave Sidewalk **Connects Neighborhoods** 

The Town marked a major milestone in our commitment to improving walkability, cycling and pedestrian safety with the official opening of our new East Avenue sidewalk in October. The sidewalk runs 10,900 linear feet, from the Brighton town line to the Village of Pittsford, providing a safe route into the Village business district for residents, students and visitors.

#### **Expanding Sustainable Choices**

The Town has installed **solar panels to power both lodges at King's Bend Park**. This was funded by a State grant we received because of our certification as a Clean Energy Community in 2017. The panels will produce 15.7 kw of electricity, roughly the amount of energy used at the park. That brings sustainable energy to King's Bend Park! The panels will save energy and cut our electrical costs – a savings passed on to taxpayers and a benefit for our environment.

The Town is now offering our residents and small businesses a **Community Solar program**. Participants in the program will be able to subscribe to a local community solar project, support the generation of renewable energy, and can save up to 10% on their entire RG&E electricity bill. Find details at **www. townofpittsford.org/community-solar-pittsford**.

The program also creates a fund for sustainability projects in Pittsford paid for by the third-party program Administrator, Joule Community Power/Roctricity. For every enrollment, the Administrator contributes \$50 to the sustainability fund. Learn more and enroll at **www. monroecommunitypower.com/enroll**. Ask questions or get help with enrollment by calling the Administrator at **(585) 244-0244**. Pittsford is well represented on the newly chartered **Monroe County Climate Action Plan** Advisory Committee. Former Pittsford Town Councilman Matthew O'Connor and current Monroe County Legislator Michael Yudelson serve as co-chairs of the committee. The Committee is charged with creating a County Climate Action Plan over the next twelve months in conjunction with County agencies and other resources.

Our **Toxic-Free Challenge**, begun in early 2019, has encouraged many residents to reexamine their need for lawn chemicals and to make positive changes for our environment. Find tips and information at **www. townofpittsford.org/toxic-free**.

We also encourage residents to **choose native species** for landscape planting. Native plants have developed tolerances to the insects, fungi, and other pests in our area. They're less likely to need chemicals to keep them healthy. Native plants provide food and habitat for the wildlife in our region as well. The Monroe County Soil and Water District offers **native plants and trees for sale** annually. The next **pre-order deadline is March 5**, **2021**. Find complete information on their website at **www.monroecountyswcd.org**.

#### **COVID-19 Considerations & Updates**

Conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to shift. Zone designations and the associated restrictions may change rapidly. Find the most **current information** for Pittsford residents via Supervisor Smith's Facebook page and on the Town website at **http://townofpittsford.org/ covid-19info**. Links to information from the County, the State and the CDC can also be found on our web page.

The pandemic's impact goes beyond our health – it is affecting every facet of our lives, including the health of our economy. It was this concern about economic uncertainty that led the Town to cancel **property assessments** in 2020. Fortunately for Pittsford residents, the Town's decades-long practices of fiscal responsibility are serving us well. Budgeting effectively, working efficiently, longrange fiscal planning and building adequate financial reserves have substantially mitigated the adverse financial

## **Support Small Businesses During COVID**

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have hit local businesses hard. Many depend upon seasonal shopping to keep their business going. Behind every small business is a family whose well-being is tied to the success of their establishment. Behind every business are employees who depend on it for their livelihood. Please, if you can, consider supporting our local small businesses by purchasing gift certificates, take-out meals and in any way you can. We want to see all of them make it through these trying times. We want all of them here with us when we get past this pandemic. impacts of COVID on Pittsford's Town government and its residents. The Town Administration remains committed to this successful approach. We'll continue to assess costs and adjust as needed. To work smart and spend wisely. To provide our residents top-notch services while keeping taxes low.

Our Town staff teams initiated and followed new procedures, designed to keep themselves and our residents safe, as they continued to serve our community throughout the pandemic. Town **services and facilities** continue to operate with modifications as needed to meet health and safety guidelines. Both the **Library** and our **Spiegel Community Center** currently offer a mix of online services and on-site services employing all necessary pandemic protocols. Status details for all Town services and facilities can be found on our COVID-19 web page.

Shop owners Rubiena and Yusha Duarte (far left and far right) are joined by Supervisor Bill Smith and Mayor Bob Corby to celebrate the grand opening of their shop Our African Roots.





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> Supervisor William A. Smith, Jr.

Town Board Kate Bohne Munzinger Deputy Town Supervisor Kevin S. Beckford Cathleen A. Koshykar Stephanie M. Townsend

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Town of Pittsford @pittsfordtowr



The Pittsford Messenger Winter 2020-21

www.townofpittsford.org

## A Message of Thanks from Supervisor Smith

Who would have imagined 12 months ago that a pandemic would turn the world upside down? That as a result each of us would have to plan and improvise rapidly to cope with circumstances completely new to our experience?

Our restaurants, shops, salons, gyms and other businesses providing services continue to bear a grave and damaging burden. Yet with our safety and health in mind, they continue to provide for us all to the best of their ability under severe restrictions. All of this in an environment that can change from hour to hour. And has.

I think of our exemplary teachers. Of their tenacity and courage in determination to continue to provide the best for Pittsford's students. Of our School Board and Superintendent, together with our teachers facing the near-impossible and coming through time after time.

Community organizations important to so many have adapted to accommodate new and growing needs: Pittsford Food Cupboard, Pittsford Youth Services, the Rotary Club, our Chamber of Commerce. I think of the countless good works done by our religious institutions. And by Pittsford residents throughout the Town. I'll never be able to thank sufficiently our Town employees, all of whom not merely rose to the occasion but helped me in doing my part, with their advice, good counsel and good thinking. Every day and close-up I witnessed their impeccable dedication to serving our residents, whatever the obstacles.

Through it all they carried on with the work we had planned for the year. The East Avenue Sidewalk. The Erie Canal Nature Preserve. Solar Energy for King's Bend Park. New Library programs and Recreation offerings. Without skipping a beat, continuing the day-to-day services our residents depend on. And I've barely scratched the surface.

Through it all, we've learned a lot. Maybe most importantly, we've learned a lot about each other, imparting to all of us an even deeper appreciation of the character, courage and spirit of the people of Pittsford.

If you'll forgive me resorting to cliché, we kept calm and carried on. Together, we did so much more beyond that. Together we will see out this pandemic, and emerge as an even stronger community.

My thanks and best wishes to you all.

## After School & Child Watch Programs Keep Kids Busy

Our Child Watch and After School Programs have been well received by busy parents and eager kids alike! Children ages 2-5 enjoy arts and crafts, dance and music, and creative play with caring staff in Child Watch. The After School Program provides a quality, fun and safe recreational environment – with plenty to do – for kindergarteners through fifth graders. Our Pittsford Recreation Department has a variety of other winter programs planned, both on-site and virtual. All of our on-site recreation activities continue to follow COVID-19 health guidelines, so schedules may change. Find the most current program information via the online registration link at **www.townofpittsford.org/home-recreation**.

