

All the best for the holidays and beyond

The holiday season is a time to spend with family and friends, and the end of the year is often an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments and experiences over the past 12 months. For me this year end is especially moving, from both a personal and professional level, as I conclude my term as Pittsford Town Supervisor and retire from public service to the Pittsford community.

I have had the pleasure of serving the residents of Pittsford for more than 37 years. I began my involvement with the Town as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 1976 and over the years served on the Zoning and Planning boards. I had the honor of being elected to the Town Council in 1994 and served in that capacity for 19 years. It was this experience that exposed me to the depth and breadth of our community as reflected in the issues we faced and the community members who cared deeply about our success.

When I was appointed Town Supervisor at the end of 2012 – a truly humbling privilege – my involvement took a leap forward as I became part of the day-to-day operations of our Town. That was a real eye-opener! The work that goes on behind the scenes to keep our services and programs running for the community is astounding and I gained a true appreciation for what our staff members do on a daily basis to provide outstanding customer service. They are a truly impressive group and we are so fortunate to have them. My role over the past year enabled me to see firsthand the incredible depth of talent, knowledge and commitment possessed by our staff. Each staff member takes personal interest in service of the highest level and each is proud to serve our community. It has truly been an honor to be a part of this team and I thank them for their service.

I am also proud to have worked alongside previous Town Supervisor Bill Carpenter and our dedicated town board members over the years and thank them for their support. Their commitment and many accomplishments have positioned our community for continued success. Our volunteer boards have likewise proved invaluable to our community, addressing policies, resolving issues, and serving as a sounding board for those who live and do business in our community. My many thanks to all those who have served and continue to serve on our boards.

I have met so many wonderful people over the years and have had the pleasure to work alongside of some truly dedicated individuals committed to the betterment of our community. I have so enjoyed meeting the people of Pittsford. It has been rewarding whether chatting with them at the senior center or the Summer Concert Series, working alongside them on various committees or addressing various the issues brought to my attention by concerned citizens.

I have seen many changes during my years of service – the implementation of our Greenprint plan, the building of a new library, the creation of the School-Village-Town Collaborative team and the continued growth of our community (from 25,000 residents to nearly 30,000). Yet we are still the same caring community we have always been, and I know we will continue to be in the future.

While it is difficult to leave an organization and group of people I have become so fond of and connected to, I take comfort in knowing that incoming Town Supervisor Bill Smith recognizes the skill and value of our staff team and is committed to continue tapping and nurturing the excellence of these wonderful people. His leadership will bring a new perspective to our town initiatives and I know he is committed to the town’s vision of preserving the past, planning wisely for our future, and maintaining our level of excellence in customer service.

While I plan to take some time off and spend some time in a warm and sunny locale, Pittsford will always be my home. I look forward to seeing you all at our concerts and other events next year – this time as a civilian! Thank you for your support over the years and for your passion about our community and its continued success. Each of you helps make Pittsford a truly unique and wonderful place. My warmest wishes to you all this holiday season and all the best for the coming year.