

Update from Mary Gehl Doyle, Town Board lead for Spiegel Community Center project
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Recreation programs continue off-site during construction for Spiegel renovation

The Town's project to renovate, upgrade and expand our community center is rapidly approaching the construction phase! We have arrived at this next step after three years of public engagement in the planning and design phases. As the Town Board lead for the Spiegel Community Center renovation project, I am glad to have this opportunity to update you on this long-awaited project that will give our residents a first-class, state of the art, community center in the heart of Pittsford while also preserving one of our most notable landmarks, the Lincoln Avenue School which was built in 1916. I want to personally thank Pittsford Recreation Department Director Jessie Hollenbeck and Pittsford Public Works Commissioner Paul Schenkel for their tireless and professional efforts on this project.

I am proud of the extensive community engagement we have solicited throughout the entire planning and design phases. Across all spectrums of Pittsford residents, we have received input throughout the project from residents, to name just a few groups, including: senior citizens whose center will be moved to the renovated Spiegel, the Citizen Committee which the Town formed early in the process in January 2016, the Town's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, frequent users of Spiegel, recreation program instructors, residents who attended the many public information meetings, Town staff members, and the Town Board. We held 23 public meetings, not counting Town Board meetings, and have published 17 articles on the planning process. I am truly thankful for the many citizens who have taken the time to attend meetings, send emails and make calls to the Town and be part of this process along the way. The planning and design phases of this project have truly been a community effort.

The Spiegel Community Center will be closed from Saturday, August 19 until completion of the construction. I am happy to report that our well attended **Recreation programming will continue at off-site locations during the Spiegel construction**. These locations include the Pittsford Community Library, several of our local schools, our Senior Center at 3750 Monroe Avenue and at the Town's recently purchased facility located at 5611 Palmyra Road. The **Palmyra Road building**, located across Marsh Road from the Post Office, will serve as the **interim community center**. During the Spiegel renovation it will house our **wellness and fitness programs** such as karate, ballet, aerobics, yoga and others. It also will house our Recreation Department's offices during the construction at Spiegel.

We are fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with the Pittsford Central School District and are grateful they will accommodate our **After School programs** for children in kindergarten through grade 5 at **Pittsford elementary schools**. These programs will be offered at Jefferson Road Elementary, at Mendon Center Elementary, at Thornell Road Elementary and at Park Road Elementary. The Town Board expresses its sincere thanks to Superintendent Mike Pero and the members of the Pittsford Central School District and their staff. Also, our **Kindergarten-Wrap** program will be offered in collaboration with **ArtsROC** on Monroe Avenue.

The **Pittsford Community Library** will host babysitter training, academic offerings and seminar-style classes. The **Senior Center** will be the site of bridge class and Martial Arts for Women, among other programs. We will make the **Town Hall meeting room** available for community group meeting reservations as well.

Programming at these alternate locations will continue throughout the construction period, which we expect will last for approximately 12-14 months. We realize offering programs at several locations may be somewhat of a challenge for patrons but this allows accommodation for as many of our existing programs as possible. In the end we will all have a new community center in a historic package with top-notch facilities to match our outstanding recreation programming. We appreciate your patience and understanding – and look forward to celebrating with you when we open the improved Spiegel Community Center in the fall of 2018!

You'll find complete time and location information for our fall programs in our recently mailed recreation brochure – or our online registration page at www.townofpittsford.org/home-recreation has these details as well. You'll also find information on two upcoming festivals– the **Food Truck & Music Fest** (Saturday, September 9 on Main Street from 12noon – 9pm) and our **Family Halloween Fest** (Sunday, October 22 at St. John Fisher College, 2 – 5pm).

You'll find the current floor and site plans at: www.townofpittsford.org/community-center-project. You'll find answers to many questions at: www.townofpittsford.org/community-center-project/q-and-a. As I have publicly said throughout the planning and design phases of our Spiegel improvement project, should you have questions about or comments to share contact me at mgdoyle@townofpittsford.org. You may also contact Town Supervisor Bill Smith at 248-6220 or bsmith@townofpittsford.org and Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck at 248-6284 or jhollenbeck@townofpittsford.org.

Mary Gehl Doyle is a member of the Pittsford Town Board and the board lead for the Spiegel Community Center Restoration and Improvement project.