

Pittsford Neighbors – “From the Supervisor” column – March 2018 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Keeping in Touch

My commitment to Pittsford residents is always to lend a listening ear and a helping hand for those seeking my help or seeking the services of the Town. That commitment starts with a fundamental belief that town government is an instrument for the public good, bringing people together.

Since taking on the duties of Town Supervisor, I've placed community dialogue and access to public information among my top priorities. This is why I maintain an open-door policy. If I am in my office and not on a call or already meeting with someone, you are welcome to come in and speak to me about any concern. I answer my own phone, for the same reason.

I recognize that regular business hours are not always convenient for everyone, which is why I host “Supervisor Saturday” every month at the Pittsford Community Library from 9:00 – 10:00 am. Usually the first Saturday of the month, dates are listed in advance on the Town website and in our weekly eNews.

In addition to one-on-one meetings and discussions, I am happy to meet with neighborhood groups and community groups with shared concerns. In January, I met with a group of residents to discuss their concerns about traffic safety in their neighborhood. Following the meeting, I reviewed the issues with my team at Town Hall and put together an action plan for improvements the Town could address. Some of the improvements will take time or must wait for warmer weather. But others could be done right away and our crews were on the job just over a week later. This is but one example of our commitment to creating solutions together with residents that benefit to our community.

At a time when website traffic and social media interaction are taking the place of town hall visits and letters, The Town maintains its own Facebook page for news and announcements. I've also made it a priority to make public information readily available and easily accessible. Last year, the *Democrat and Chronicle* praised the Town's website, which we redesigned in 2014, as “bright and engaging” and easy to use, with a wealth of information. I welcome and encourage you to refer to my Town Supervisor Facebook page – “Bill Smith Pittsford Town Supervisor.” It's a convenient and timely source of important information, from progress on Town initiatives, to upcoming meetings, to updates on the Town's lawsuit to prevent the clear-cutting of trees on the Erie Canal.

It was Thomas Jefferson who said that government closest to the people serves people best. Across the country, local governments remain the most trusted level of government. Here in Pittsford, we work daily to retain that trust and confidence, through a willingness to listen and an ability to put aside differences for a common good. Together, we can continue to build on a strong relationship between Town residents and Town government, as we strive always for continual improvement in Pittsford, for the benefit of our residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. You are welcome to stop by my office in Town Hall, call me at 248-6220 or send a message to bsmith@townofpittsford.org.