



# News & Reviews

July 24, 2019

***Town of Pittsford - a Clean Energy Community***  
***See listings below for***  
***Upcoming Activities, Town Board Meetings & Community Meetings***

## **TOXIN FREE CHALLENGE & RESPONSIBLE LAWN CARE** ***An Opportunity to Skip the Chemicals - Organic Lawn Signs Available***

Some residents choose to forego chemical treatments in favor of organic lawn care options. Whether you go completely organic or are working toward minimizing your use of synthetic lawn chemicals, the tips below can help you cultivate a healthy lawn that is healthy for the environment. Many thanks to the engaged residents who worked with Supervisor Smith and the Town to develop the Toxin-Free Challenge and make it a reality.

If you decide to go toxin free and would like an "Organic Yard" lawn sign, you can pick one up at the Save the Frogs booth at the Village Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9:00am - 12:00pm (Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue), at Town Hall (11 South Main Street) during regular business hours, or look for posts on the Nextdoor app from neighbors in your area. The information below also can be found on the Town website at [www.townofpittsford.org/toxin-free](http://www.townofpittsford.org/toxin-free) and [www.townofpittsford.org/responsible-lawn-care](http://www.townofpittsford.org/responsible-lawn-care).



## **Pittsford Challenge for a Toxin-Free Neighborhood**

Join your neighbors and skip the synthetic chemicals this year.

**Toxin Free Challenge Organic Yard signs are now available!**

- **Re-evaluate your lawn contract:** avoid non-organic pesticides and herbicides, use organic-slow release fertilizer and only in the fall, avoid lawn-stressing spring and summer lawn applications. Skeptical? Try skipping pesticides one year and see.
- **Choose the right plants for your lawn:** fescues for shade, blue and rye for sun, try non-grass ground covers.
- **Mow correctly:** 3 inches or higher, return clippings to the lawn, keep mower blades sharp.
- **Develop healthy soil:** chemical use can destroy a healthy soil ecosystem; add a top layer of organic material such as composted manure instead. Aerate your lawn every 1-2 years.
- **Water correctly:** only in the early morning, if at all, with deep watering of 1" weekly to encourage deep roots. Use a tuna can to measure sprinkler output.
- **Consider native plants:** try replacing some of your grass with native trees, shrubs and flowers - native plants need no water, very little care, and no chemicals.
- **Patch bare spots quickly:** weeds love bare ground - don't give them a chance to take hold.

**Further Sustainable Landscaping Info & Resources:** the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Sustainable Landscaping website has extensive information about green yard and garden tips, selecting native plants and resources for a chemical free yard. Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/public/44290.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/44290.html) to learn more.

### **Responsible Lawn Care**

There are many approaches to caring for your lawn. Whether you choose extensive or low maintenance efforts, synthetic or organic lawn care products, caring for your lawn in a responsible manner is important not just to your yard but to the overall environment. If you are not yet ready to go completely toxin-free, below are some tips for responsible lawn care.

### **Synthetic Lawn Care Treatments**

If you have a lawn service, carefully assess and discuss your needs with your lawn company. For example, most lawn service plans treat for grubs in spring and fall. But grubs don't feed in the spring. So spring treatment is unnecessary and wastes your money.

**Professional advice is available** to help understand what's really necessary in your lawn treatment plan. You can phone Cornell Cooperative Extension, at (585) 753-2550, to review what your service is proposing. It's an opportunity to save money and avoid applying chemicals that are unnecessary.

### **If you choose synthetic lawn care treatments, here are some basic tips:**

- **Crabgrass:** don't treat for crabgrass until the forsythia bloom - this is when crabgrass germinates. A second treatment four weeks later, especially in the event of a particularly rainy season, can ensure continued success. Fall treatment is not needed. Crabgrass is an annual weed that dies off by the end of summer/early fall, so treatment at those times is a waste of time and money.
- **Grubs:** treat for grubs in July, not any earlier - grubs don't feed in the spring, so spring treatment is unnecessary.
- **Weeds:** if you treat for weeds, research the product you are using to find out how long it is effective. It is important to consider pollinators in the spring (bees and other insects). A pre-emergent weed preventer should be applied before the spring weeds flower, or a post-emergent can be considered after other sources of pollen have become available for insects. A single weed prevention treatment in the fall will cut down on weeds with less possible impact on pollinators. Weed preventers also can be harmful to a lawn in drought dormancy, so it is best not to treat during those times.

Crabgrass preventers and some weed preventers will stop desirable grass seed from germinating, so if you plan to seed your lawn do so in the fall or avoid these products in the spring.

***Please follow the Town's practice of responsible and very limited pesticide use, and only when strictly needed.***

### **COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSION AT 8/6 TOWN BOARD MTG**

The Town Board will have further discussion about selection of an administrator for the proposed Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) project at its Town Board meeting on Tuesday, August 6. Those who are interested in the subject are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at 6:00pm at Town Hall (11 South Main Street). ASL interpretation will be provided.

The Towns of Pittsford, Brighton and Irondequoit and the Village of Pittsford are working together to explore obtaining electricity for our respective communities from 100% renewable sources, at a cost below the RG&E electricity rate, through a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. CCA leverages combined buying power. The four municipalities previously issued a request for proposals for a CCA administrator and subsequently submitted questions to two potential CCA administrators.

### **TOWN MOVES FORWARD ON LED STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENTS, ENERGY BENCHMARKING**

The Town continues to move forward on its sustainability initiatives. At the July 16 Town Board meeting a presentation from the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FL RPC) outlined the work they are doing with the Town on **installing LED streetlights** to lower cost to taxpayers and reduce the amount of electricity used. G/FL RPC recommended participation in the current RG&E LED Streetlamp Conversion program and furnished technical expertise during the preliminary Community Solar discussions. The RG&E Streetlamp Conversion Program was reviewed in detail for the board. The Town Board gave Supervisor Smith authorization to enter into an agreement with RG&E to move forward with the LED Streetlamp Conversion program this year.

Also at the meeting, the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) made a presentation on the proposed **energy consumption benchmarking program** they are developing in collaboration with the Town and G/FL RPC for Town municipal buildings. The project would analyze energy usage and evaluate potential energy efficiency enhancements, with a goal of energy reduction. The presentation also included information on the background, history and role of the Pollution Prevention Institute.

### **EAST AVENUE STATE DOT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - WORK IS UNDERWAY IN PITTSFORD**

The State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) work on East Avenue from the Pittsford Town line to St. John Fisher College is underway. Lane shifts and alternating single lane closures during construction will ensure continued access to businesses and residences along East Avenue; traffic will not be detoured. The work will take place overnights, from 8:00pm to 6:00am. The project consists of milling and repaving the existing road surface and is expected to last several weeks. To ensure your safety and theirs, please watch for flaggers directing traffic and follow their guidance.

The full project actually begins at the Rochester City line and will carry through Brighton as well. You may have seen some work being done already, closer to the city. We can expect a few weeks of inevitable inconvenience. But the project brings us a much-needed, improved road surface with better markings. Problems or questions about the project can be directed to the regional office of the NYSDOT at (585) 272-4818.

### **CANALSIDE CONCERT THIS FRIDAY: DIXIELAND JAZZ WITH THE SMUGTOWN STOMPERS**

The Town of Pittsford's 2019 [Summer Concert Series](#) continues this Friday, July 26 with Dixieland jazz from The Smugtown Stompers. Join us at 6:30pm in Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford, 22 North Main Street.

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy a wonderful concert along the canal. Harladay Hots will be site with hotdogs, burgers and chicken sandwiches available for purchase. Or grab a bite to eat from one of the nearby Village restaurants.

Our Summer Concert Series continues each Friday evening at 6:30pm through August 9 with a variety of outstanding music throughout the season. From pops, swing, Dixieland and jazz to party rock, blues, funk and soul - plus a Beatles tribute! - it's a perfect way to start your weekend. See a complete schedule on our [Summer Concert Series Event page](#) on the Town website.

### **FIREWORKS COURTESY NOTIFICATION FOR THIS SATURDAY, JULY 27**

Public and private fireworks events in the Town of Pittsford require a permit issued by the Town. As a courtesy, notifications for public and private fireworks events held within the Town are posted on the [Town website](#), the [Town Facebook page](#) and in the [Town's eNews](#). Courtesy notifications also can be mailed in advance to those in the immediate area of a permitted fireworks event (public or private) who request them.

To request a mailed Fireworks Notification, please contact Town Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement Officer Kelly Cline at [kcline@townofpittsford.org](mailto:kcline@townofpittsford.org) or 248-6250. **To sign up for the Town eNews**, visit [www.townofpittsford.org/enews](http://www.townofpittsford.org/enews). The eNews, which contains the most updated information about Town meetings, projects, programs, services and events, is sent once weekly or for urgent or emergency Town

notifications; **email addresses are never shared for any other purpose.** Please see below current fireworks event permit notifications.

### **Current Fireworks Event Notification:**

#### **July 27, 2019**

Private fireworks event at Oak Hill Country Club - approximately 9:15pm

All current Fireworks Event Courtesy Notification listings can be found on the Town website at [www.townofpittsford.org/fireworks-notifications](http://www.townofpittsford.org/fireworks-notifications).

#### **BUFFALO BILLS TRAINING CAMP IS TOMORROW - AUGUST 6 AT ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE**

Buffalo Bills Training Camp starts tomorrow - Thursday, July 25! Bills training Camp runs through Tuesday, August 6 at St. John Fisher College. Plenty of activities are planned, including a 60th anniversary celebration at 9:45am on Thursday, August 1 and the "Return of the Blue & Red" night practice on August 2 featuring family-friendly fun. Find complete information, including a schedule of when practices are open to the public and which practices require tickets, at [www.buffalobills.com/training-camp](http://www.buffalobills.com/training-camp).

There is **no parking on campus** for practices open to the public. **Shuttles** are available from parking lots at Pittsford Mendon High School (472 Mendon Road) and Pittsford Sutherland High School (55 Sutherland Street) during practice times, see [parking information](#) on the Bills Training Camp website for a complete schedule. There is a \$1 shuttle fee for those ages 12 - 62 and all services are handicap accessible.

The Buffalo Bills Training Camp is free to attend. **Tickets are required for certain practices** as indicated on the schedule; a complete schedule of all camp practice times can be found on the [Buffalo Bills Training Camp website](#).

#### **SENIORS SOCK HOP AND LUNCH IS THIS TUESDAY, 7/30**

Seniors, join us in the VanHuysen Community Room at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center this Tuesday, July 30 at 12noon for a fun new lunch event - our first-ever Senior Sock Hop! Wear your saddle shoes and bobby socks . . . cardigan or suit . . . leather jacket and white T-shirt - whatever gets you in the spirit! Then after lunch head to our "dance hall" to enjoy all the hits from the 1950s with music by Fred Vine and Lynn. Lunch includes burgers and cheeseburgers, fries, chips, popcorn, cola and root beer floats, and cake for dessert. Cost is \$6.00 per person and advance reservation and payment is required. Stop by the Pittsford Seniors office in the Community Center or call 248-6235 for more information and to register.

The Town of Pittsford's Spiegel Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about all of our wonderful programs for seniors [click here to visit the Seniors page](#) on the Town website or [read our Seniors program info brochure online](#).

#### **SAVE THE DATE: MARY POPPINS RETURNS - FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT AUGUST 1**

The second of our Thursday evening Family Outdoor Movie Nights is Thursday, August 1 and features Mary Poppins Returns [rated PG]. Shown on a giant inflatable screen at the Sutherland High School fields (55 Sutherland Street), the movie will begin at dark (approximately 9:00pm). It's free, open to the public and includes free popcorn and beverages. Please note, pets are not allowed at this location. It's a great time with family and friends - bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and join us!

Then be sure to mark your calendar for our final Family Outdoor Movie Night of the season - On August 15 we'll be showing Ralph Breaks the Internet [PG]. Pittsford Sutherland High School is located at 55 Sutherland Street.

#### **VETERANS: THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WANTS TO PRESERVE YOUR STORIES**

***Pittsford Resident Seeks Participants for "Veterans History Project"***

The Library of Congress Veterans History Project has collected, preserved and made accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Pittsford resident and Canandaigua Veterans Affairs Medical Center volunteer Cynthia Rickett has recorded nearly 400 interviews of veterans from Pittsford, East Rochester, Fairport and Brighton for the Veterans History Project. Mrs. Rickett is looking for more stories to gather and preserve.

Participation in the Veterans History Project is free and each veteran receives a free copy of his or her interview on a DVD. Interview copies also are sent to the Library of Congress and to the Rochester Military Society, and are permanently preserved in each of their collections. Mrs. Rickett personally arranges and conducts each interview.

If you are, or know of, a U.S. military veteran who wants to share his or her experience related to military service, you can contact Cynthia Rickett at (585) 353-0632 to participate in the Veterans History Project.

The Veterans History Project began in 2000 as a way to preserve the stories of WWII veterans. Today the Library of Congress holds over 100,000 stories from veterans who served in the U.S. military, in any capacity, from WWI to the present. The project also accepts oral histories by immediate family members (parent, spouse, sibling or child) of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war. To view Veterans History Project interviews visit [www.loc.gov/vets/](http://www.loc.gov/vets/) and click "Search the Veterans Collections." You may search by "Name of Interviewer" to see Cynthia Rickett's past interviews.

To our veterans - your service matters, and your story is worth preserving. Please consider giving Mrs. Rickett a call and participating in the Veterans History Project. Recording your experiences can serve to enlighten future generations and honor those with whom you served.

### **COMMUNITY CPR CLASS AT PITTSFORD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE AUGUST 6**

Would you like to learn how to perform CPR? Bystander CPR triples a person's chance of surviving an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. According to a 2014 study, 45% of victims who received bystander CPR survived!

The Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance (PVA) offers certification in American Heart Association CPR. Learn and practice a life-saving skill, and take home the ability to help those around you in their greatest time of need.

The next class is Tuesday, August 6 from 6:00 - 10:00pm at the ambulance base, 40 Toby Road. Individuals, groups, and organizations are welcome to attend. To learn more or to sign up for a class, visit the PVA website at [www.pittsfordvolunteerambulance.org](http://www.pittsfordvolunteerambulance.org) and fill out the CPR Class Contact form. The Community Outreach Coordinator will return inquiries within two business days.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **ASL INTERPRETER AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

The Town of Pittsford provides an American Sign Language interpreter at every meeting of the Pittsford Town Board, to interpret for those who need this service.

### **UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN PITTSFORD**

- [Buffalo Bills Training Camp](#), 7/25 - 8/6, St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618; shuttles available in Pittsford at Pittsford Mendon High School, 472 Mendon Road, and Pittsford Sutherland High School, 55 Sutherland Street; for complete camp info and shuttle times, visit [www.buffalobills.com/team/training-camp/](http://www.buffalobills.com/team/training-camp/)
- [Town Summer Concert](#) featuring Dixieland jazz with the Smugtown Stompers, Friday, 7/26, 6:30pm, canalside in Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford, 22 N. Main Street
- [Family Outdoor Movie Night](#), featuring *Mary Poppins Returns*, Thursday, 8/1, at dark, Pittsford Sutherland High School Fields, 55 Sutherland Street - please note, no pets allowed at this location

- [Concerts for Kids](#) - family friendly music with Topher Holt, Wednesday, 8/7, 6:30pm, Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford, 22 North Main Street

#### TOWN OF PITTSFORD BOARD MEETINGS

- **Design Review & Historic Preservation Board**, Thursday, 7/25, 6:45PM, Public Meeting Room, Town Hall (lower level), 11 South Main Street

#### COMMUNITY MEETINGS CALENDAR

- [American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899](#) Tuesday morning breakfast and socializing, every Tuesday, 8:00-10:00am, 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; for [membership information](#) visit the [Rayson-Miller Post website](#)
- [Pittsford Rotary Club](#), Wednesdays (weekly), 7:00am, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street
- [Pittsford Art Group](#), first Thursday of the month, September through May (no meetings October and March), 7:00 - 9:00pm, Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, room 19 (lower level, elevator available), 35 Lincoln Avenue; the group strives to be a teaching organization - all are welcome! For meeting details and membership, contact PAG president [Margie Mitchell](#)

TV-12 PITTSFORD CABLE CHANNEL 1303 is on seven days a week. Click [HERE](#) for schedule.

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