

From the Supervisor

A Year in Review and a Look Ahead: continual improvement, fiscal strength

Tax cuts support residents; budget supports sustainable choices, walkability and inclusivity

We had much to be proud of in 2019, thanks in large part to outstanding planning and execution by our Town staff team. Our municipal accomplishments of 2019 and my administration's priorities for 2020 advance the Town's plans for continual improvement of infrastructure, services and programs for our residents while keeping Town taxes low.

1. Tax Cut

In 2019 the Town Administration continued its commitment to keep taxes low while preserving and improving the services our residents rely upon. My Supervisor's Town Budget for 2020, adopted unanimously by the Town Board in November 2019, cut both the Town tax rate and the Town tax levy for the second consecutive year. Cumulatively over the two years, we reduced Pittsford's Town tax rate by 8.25% and the tax levy by 2.3%. **Of every dollar you pay in property tax, Town taxes account for only 9 cents.**

2. East Avenue Sidewalk to be Finished This Spring

We completed the major remaining portion of the East Avenue sidewalk before winter's onset halted construction, installing concrete from Kilbourn Road toward the Town line with Brighton. We'll finish it once the weather breaks in the spring. This will complete a safe and walkable route all the way from Brighton to Pittsford Village for residents, students and visitors. Walkability is central to quality of life and to the commercial success of the Village and the entire Town. Our policies to promote it – and bicycle-friendliness – carry forward into 2020 as we finalize our joint **Town-Village Active Transportation Plan** and move forward with its recommendations.

3. Making Our Environment Cleaner

In 2019 Pittsford moved ahead with the **Community Choice Aggregation** program. Undertaken jointly with the Towns of Brighton and Irondequoit, its purpose is to get cheaper electricity for our residents and businesses from 100% renewable sources. Soon the program administrator will solicit bids from electricity brokers in accordance with these twin goals: a lower rate and 100% renewable sources. Last year we began work to swap out existing street lights with **LED lights**. Doing this reduces the Town's energy use and therefore reduces expenses to taxpayers. Also in 2019 the Town began work with the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute to develop its own **energy consumption benchmarking program**. This will give us a comprehensive analysis of energy use. It identifies opportunities for greater efficiency, in order to reduce the Town's energy consumption and expense still further. Both the LED streetlight project and the energy benchmarking will be completed and begin to yield benefits in 2020. We'll have **rooftop solar arrays** on the lodges at King's Bend Park installed by this summer as well. Funded by a State grant we earned as a Clean Energy Community, the new solar panels will generate enough power to meet the buildings' electrical needs – making their electricity use energy neutral.



Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

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4. Town Projects Make a More Sustainable Pittsford

We were proud to kick off projects in 2019 to offer residents sustainable options in everyday life. At the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, we installed a new **electric vehicle (EV) charging station**. To encourage more low-impact transportation, we made life a bit easier for cyclists by installing the Town's first **bike fix-it stations**, one each at the Library and at Thornell Farm Park, and we added new **bike racks** behind the Library. We also installed seven additional **water bottle filling stations** in Town facilities, including at the Library and a seasonal station at Thornell Farm Park. Last year our bottle filling stations (which include two at Spiegel Community Center) kept tens of thousands of plastic bottles out of the waste stream. To encourage action for a cleaner and healthier environment, last summer the Town launched its community-wide **Toxin-Free Challenge and Responsible Lawn Care initiative**. We distributed hundreds of lawn care information cards and toxin-free challenge signs throughout Pittsford. We added to the Town website new pages on Toxin-Free and Responsible Lawn Care to assist residents in maintaining a healthy and attractive lawn without using synthetic chemicals. Together, these efforts support Pittsford's long-standing commitment to sustainable practices in our community. Our new **composting program** at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center kept 970 pounds of food scraps and other compostable products out of the landfill in just the first six months of its operation.

5. Expanding Recreation for All Ages

2019 saw the opening of Pittsford's first **Dog Park** – an enjoyable and welcoming spot for dogs and their owners alike at 34 East Street. We completed a **new playground at Great Embankment Park**, made improvements to the **Auburn Trail** and launched our **Trail Passport program** in collaboration with Wegmans, all to expand and improve opportunities for outdoor enjoyment. The Spiegel Community Center offered new programs and services including cooking classes, intergenerational programming for seniors and youth and expanded drop-in gym activities for residents of all ages. Moving into 2020 our Recreation staff will continue to offer new opportunities for recreation programs that provide enjoyment, instruction, and bring residents together.

6. Making Pittsford More Inclusive

Pittsford's long history as a community that welcomes everyone continued through 2019. We expanded the reach of our recreation programs through partnerships with Special Olympics of New York and with the Autism Council of Rochester. With Special Olympics we hosted our first Walk for Inclusion. We engaged the Autism Council of Rochester (ACR) to train Town staff. Consequently, last fall the Autism Council designated the Town of Pittsford as an **Autism-Friendly Community**. Our Community Center and Library, specifically, earned designation as Autism-Friendly facilities. We look forward to expanding on these important partnerships in 2020, with a view toward new programming and services for those with special needs. We'll continue to strengthen as well our long-standing partnership with the Pittsford Central School District, including those aspects of that partnership that so effectively provide outstanding services to Pittsford students. Working together in support of Pittsford's families is merely one facet of the long-standing cooperative partnership among the Town, the School District and the Village.

7. Building on Our Fiscal Strength

Tax stability and professional-quality management of municipal finances continues to set Pittsford apart. Once more in 2019 the Town Administration was able to maintain and improve the level and variety of services provided to our residents while cutting Town taxes. **Once more, in 2019, Moody's Investor Services gave Pittsford its fiscal report card, reaffirming the Town's Triple-A credit rating.** Pittsford remains the only town in all of upstate New York to hold



Thanks and Farewell to Councilman Matt O'Connor

After eight years of caring and committed service to our community, Town Councilman Matt O'Connor retired at the end of 2020. His colleagues on the Town Board were proud to recognize Matt and thank him for the many accomplishments he has achieved for the Town and its residents. These include his hands-on participation and dedicated support of Pittsford Rotary, our Chamber of Commerce, and local charities. It encompasses as well his leadership in key Town initiatives, most notably and significantly serving as Board lead for the Town's sustainability initiatives, including the Town's Clean Energy Community designation, EV Charging Stations, LED streetlight replacement program, and Pollution Prevention Institute partnership. Many thanks Matt – your contributions have made a lasting and truly positive impact on our community.

On-Demand Streaming of Town Board Meetings

On-demand video streaming of Pittsford Town Board meetings is accessible from anywhere on any device. For streaming on-demand, go to www.townofpittsford.org/home-channel12. Town Board meeting video viewing is also available on cable channel 1303 "TV-12." We've been offering video of meetings since March 2017. TV-12 broadcasts usually start the day after the meeting and run twice a day for two weeks. You'll find the schedule on the Town website.

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the Triple-A rating, the highest credit rating possible. This means that when Pittsford goes out to finance projects, Pittsford residents pay the least – because our credit rating is the best.

8. Continual Improvement of Town Services

Preserving the singular character of Pittsford – a pillar of our quality of life that's so important to so many of us – requires continual improvement. With each accomplishment, members of my administration and I look for opportunities to provide services, amenities and programs that are ever more effective, efficient and fiscally sound and that deliver more value for our residents. As part of this enterprise, in 2019 we conducted a full **community survey** to measure residents' interest, support and opinions about existing and proposed initiatives and services for our community. The survey will continue to inform our judgment as we set priorities for the year ahead.

9. A Fresh Vision for the Next 10 Years

The survey results helped shape our updated **Comprehensive Plan** that the Town adopted in 2019. As the Town's fundamental land-use planning document, the Comprehensive Plan represents a vision and roadmap for Pittsford's future development. As 2020 opens we begin work on updating the Town code in accordance with the new Comprehensive Plan. It provides an important framework for preserving open space and maintaining the historic character of our community. Through a provision I proposed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan, we will also be able to encourage more affordable housing for people in their retirement years and approaching them.

10. Lower Cost Trash Pickup, Fewer Trucks

Continual improvement requires considering new and innovative approaches to matters that affect our residents. One example is our initiative in 2019 to launch a **Refuse District program**. I initiated this program in response to the recent consolidation of trash haulers serving Pittsford, and the increase in price and decrease in service that seems to be the result. This empowered every neighborhood in Town with the opportunity to get dependable trash hauling and recycling service at reduced cost and with fewer trucks lumbering through the neighborhood. It simplifies things for residents in the Refuse Districts, since the Town selects a single designated hauler through competitive bid, administers the contract and bills residents annually through their tax bill. It's completely up to residents of a neighborhood as to whether they want to form a refuse district or not. Residents of neighborhoods that created refuse districts in 2019 are seeing substantial savings. We can expect more Pittsford residents to take advantage of this cost-saving and convenient approach in the year ahead.

11. Greenprint 2.0: Protecting Open Space

Our 2019 Community Survey demonstrated broad public support for the Town expanding its groundbreaking Greenprint program. This would preserve additional expanses of countryside and open land unspoiled, in their natural state. I intend this year to begin the process of engaging the public along these lines, with a view to making specific recommendations to the Town Board and to our residents for their consideration in **expanding the Greenprint**. These are likely to include considering purchase of development rights, which would be put to public approval, by referendum. It would include as well updating our Town code to reflect the new Comprehensive Plan, to help preserve open space through additional means such as protective buffers of open space along major thoroughfares and preserving farmland.

My Thanks

This discussion of your Town administration's undertakings in 2019 barely scratches the surface. It does, I think, demonstrate the breadth, depth and strength of this administration's commitment to Pittsford residents through professional-level service, creative problem-solving, fiscal responsibility and support for a sustainable future. I'm

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Town Board Members Sworn In

Our new and re-elected Town Board members were sworn in at the January 7 Pittsford Town Board meeting. Welcome and congratulations to Cathy Koshykar as a new Town Board member and congratulations to Kate Bohne Munzinger in her re-election to Town Board and re-appointment as Deputy Supervisor, and congratulations to Bill Smith as re-elected Town Supervisor.



Pictured above: Councilmember Kevin Beckford, Deputy Town Supervisor Kate Bohne Munzinger, Town Supervisor Bill Smith, Councilmember Stephanie Townsend and Councilmember Cathy Koshykar.

Memorial Day parade and ceremony is May 25

Join us at Pittsford's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 25 at 10AM. The parade steps off from Sutherland Street and proceeds down Jefferson Road to South Main Street, concluding at the Pittsford Cemetery on Washington Road with a moving ceremony. An open house reception at the Rayson-Miller American Legion Post 899 (21 North Main Street) follows.



Members of Pittsford's Rayson-Miller American Legion Post 899 lead our Memorial Day parade each year - join us this year as we honor those who gave their lives in service to our country.

Find it A to Z on the Town website

In addition to a regular search tool, the Town website has a “Find it A to Z” option.

Click the graphic found in the left column of each page on the website and select a topic from the alphabetized list to find the information you need – from “About Pittsford” to “Zoning Map” and everything in between!



Happy 100th Birthday Paul Spiegel!

Paul M. Spiegel, for whom our



Community Center is named, celebrated his 100th birthday in January. An avid collector, publisher and author of numerous books about Pittsford’s history, Mr. Spiegel served as

Town Supervisor from 1966-1987. His ancestral roots in Pittsford extend back to the mid-1800s. Gentleman, scholar and a true friend of our community, Paul Spiegel personifies the very best of Pittsford, its history, its character and its promise for generations to come.

Emergency Closings

In the event of seriously bad weather or other emergencies, you can find information about Town facility closings and program/event cancellations on the Town’s website www.townofpittsford.org. It’s also posted on the “Town of Pittsford” Facebook page and the @pittsfordtown Twitter feed. Local television and radio stations and Pittsford’s TV-12 Cable Channel 1303 government access station normally provide this information as well. TV-12 announcements can be viewed live any time through the TV-12 page on the Town website.

Winter Parking Rules Through April 1

To facilitate snow removal, seasonal parking restrictions remain in effect through April 1. Parking of any vehicle on public roads - including state highways and on the shoulder of all roads - is prohibited in all areas within the Town and outside of the Village. During this time, please don’t park on or along public roads outside of the Village.

When the snow flies, we need roadsides clear of vehicles so our plows can get through. This is especially true in neighborhoods, where the streets are narrower. Vehicles parked along the roadside can impede the plows from cleaning the streets in your neighborhood. Please help us keep our streets safe and accessible!

Yard Debris Collection & Spring Cleanup

It’s that time of year when removing snow and ice on the Town’s streets and walkways is the top priority for Pittsford’s Town crews. We’re aware that many yards have branches and debris from winter storms. Our crews will make their way through Town to pick up yard debris in the weeks ahead, as weather permits. Residents may place yard debris at the curb for pickup. Please don’t put debris in the roadway or on the shoulder of the road – it creates a traffic hazard. Please note there won’t be a set pickup schedule – crews will proceed through Town as conditions allow.

The Town’s **Spring Cleanup** begins on March 30. We’ll be collecting loose piles of leaves, thatch, brush and branches. Please note that our crews will make their way through the Town repeatedly during April, but not on a set schedule. Regular scheduled collection of loose brush, branches and bagged/containerized debris begins the week of May 4. As part of the Town’s ongoing sustainability efforts going back decades, once again this year we’ll grind into mulch all the yard debris and leaves we collect and will make it available to you free of charge, as one more service for Pittsford residents.

In March we’ll send you the Town’s annual Yard Debris collection schedule and information mailer. You’ll also find this information on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/home-yard_debris.

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proud of what we accomplished in 2019. I look forward to the opportunities ahead.

My thanks to our entire Town staff. They work day in and day out to make our plans to serve Pittsford’s residents a reality. Thanks as well to my colleagues on Town Board who have supported these initiatives and have shown a willingness to work together to serve the best interests of our community.

As ever, **should you have any comments or questions** about our past accomplishments or future plans, you may reach me directly by phone at 248-6220 or by email at bsmith@townofpittsford.org. My door is open and I answer my own phone. I’m always interested to know what matters most to you as a resident.

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Autism-Friendly in Pittsford

This past October the Town of Pittsford earned official designation as an Autism Friendly Community. Awarded by the Autism Council of Rochester, this designation underscores one aspect of Pittsford’s long-held dedication to *all* of our citizens. It will help foster a better understanding of autism in our community and beyond. The specialized training that Library, Recreation and other Town staff have received from the Autism Council of Rochester is invaluable and will be ongoing. Pittsford is committed to serving and supporting those living with autism and their families.



Our partnership with The Autism Council is a valuable resource. Thanks to Deputy Town Supervisor Kate Bohne Munzinger who, as the Town Board lead for this initiative, has cultivated and strengthened this partnership. Thanks as well to our Recreation and Library staff who are

already putting to use their training and are eager to expand these efforts.

As an initial step, we currently have available Autism Sensory Calming Kits for use at our Library and at our Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. Our Library has offered some sensory-friendly programs already and has plans for more. Our Recreation Department is working with the Autism Council to develop programs geared toward individuals on the autism spectrum.

We’re proud that the Autism Council recognizes our community’s enthusiasm for increasing awareness of the needs of people with autism and for supporting Pittsford children, young adults, families, and caregivers living daily with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Refuse District Enrollment

Last year the Town initiated a Refuse District Program, enabling residents to form neighborhood refuse districts. Creating a refuse district can mean significantly lower cost to residents for trash collection. It reduces garbage truck traffic on residential streets by limiting it to one visit, once a week. The Town

contracts with a trash hauler to serve the refuse districts and then bills district residents on their tax bill. For 2020, residents of Pittsford refuse districts are paying \$213 for their trash and recycling collection.



Creating a Refuse District and setting its boundaries are up to neighborhood residents. The Town will guide interested residents through the process and will provide the necessary support and tangible assistance. In 2019, five neighborhoods completed the process, creating refuse districts for 2020.

January 1 - April 30, 2020 is the enrollment period for setting up refuse districts for service beginning in 2021. You can find complete information about setting up a Refuse District at www.townofpittsford.org/refuse-districts.

Traffic Safety in Your Neighborhood

Speeding and running stop signs are illegal and pose a real danger to pedestrians, children and pets, especially on neighborhood streets. If you advise the Town Supervisor’s office of these problems in your neighborhood, the Supervisor can have the County Sheriff’s Department provide special coverage in the problem area. This makes scofflaws aware that law enforcement is watching – and is enforcing the law.

The number one cause of speeding in most neighborhoods is – the neighbors who live there! The most effective way to stop or mitigate speeding in your neighborhood is to talk to your neighbors, one on one or in a neighborhood meeting, to address the issue. We can’t put a Sheriff’s deputy on every corner. Even if it were possible, none of us would want to pay the taxes to do it.

If the problems persist, if there are exceptional circumstances (excessive cut through traffic, etc.) or if discussions among neighbors don’t resolve the issue, you can contact Town Supervisor Bill Smith at 248-6220 to discuss next steps and other options.

If the road in question is a Town road, the Town has fairly broad discretion in taking remedial steps. These steps can include, among others:

- Installing a temporary speed monitoring device
- Arranging for special attention from the Sheriff
- Installing additional stop signs
- Reducing the speed limit

If the road in question is under State or County jurisdiction, the Town can advocate for remedial steps and improvements, but has no authority to take action itself unless authorized by the State or County to do so in a particular instance.

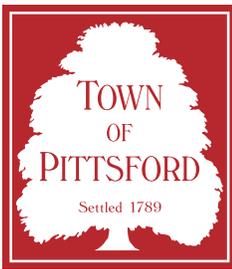
The maximum speed limit for nearly all residential streets under the Town’s jurisdiction is 30mph. As with any other remedial step, if there’s a clear consensus among residents in a neighborhood to reduce the speed limit, the Town normally will do so. You should be aware that State law does not permit the Town to reduce speeds below 25mph. Also, where the speed limit is reduced below 30mph, State law requires permanent posting of speed limit signs throughout the



Talk to your neighbors - speeding and running stop signs in your neighborhood puts children, pets and pedestrians in danger.

neighborhood, spaced every 1,200 feet along the street – which means signs will be placed in front of people’s houses. This represents a change from the 30mph speed limit, for which the State requires only one sign at each entrance to the neighborhood.

If you and your neighbors are interested in any of the remedial steps discussed above, the Town Supervisor would facilitate a neighborhood meeting to discuss these options and determine a neighborhood consensus for implementing any changes. Those with questions or concerns about speeding issues are encouraged to contact Town Supervisor Bill Smith at 248-6220.



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(585) 248-6200

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



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Save these dates for upcoming 2020 Town events!

Find Town Special Events information at
www.townofpittsford.org/community-events

Community Celebrations

- Paddle and Pour Art & Music Fest Saturday, 5/23, Noon-10pm
- Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony Monday, 5/25, 10am
- Women's Vote Centennial event..... August - date & location TBD
- Food Truck & Music Fest on Main St..... Saturday, 9/12, Noon-9pm
- Family Halloween Fest at SJF CollegeSunday, 10/18, 2-5pm

Concerts for Kids

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford

- July 8.....Tophér Holt (*Family Friendly Music*)
- Aug 5.....Mr. Loops (*Kids Rock*)

Family Outdoor Movies

Thursdays at Dark, Sutherland High School (55 Sutherland Street)

- July 16..... *Frozen 2 (PG)*
- July 30.....*Aladdin (PG)*
- August 13..... *Toy Story 4 (G)*

Summer Concert Series

Fridays at 6:30pm, Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford

We've added three more concerts this year!

- June 12Pittsford Sutherland Jazz Ensemble
- June 19 Mud Creek (*Rock, Roots & Americana*)
- June 26 ..John Dady & John Michael Ryan (*Traditional Irish & American Folk*)
- July 10 Jumbo Shrimp (*Rock & Top 40 Hits*)
- July 17 Up 2 Somethin' (*Dance, Pop & Rock*) and PYS Duck Drop Rubber ducks in the canal raise funds for Pittsford Youth Services!
- July 24 Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra
- July 31 Steve Grills and the Roadmasters (*Blues*) and Pittsford Car & Bike Show
- August 7Alfred St. John's Trinidad & Tobago Steelband (*Steel Drum*)
- August 14.....Pittsford Fire Department Band (*Pops*)
- August 21 Mr. Mustard (*Beatles Tribute Band*)
- August 28..... Smugtown Stompers (*Dixieland Jazz*)