

# THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER

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## From the Supervisor: Leadership in Sustainability – a Long Tradition in Pittsford



Bill Smith  
Town Supervisor

Unless you've just moved to Town, you'll be likely to know something of Pittsford's leadership and commitment in working to protect our environment and promote sustainability through our actions and policies.

The commitment goes back decades. Pittsford's Greenprint plan, adopted in 1996, preserved as open space two-thirds of the then-remaining farmland in Town. That's the initiative that first got me involved in local government, when I ran for the Town Board, and was elected, on the promise to support Supervisor Bill Carpenter's visionary Greenprint initiative.

Pittsford was the *first* town in the State of New York to adopt a plan to preserve land by purchasing development rights. At the time it was so unusual there were some who viewed it as a kind of flaky eccentricity. Yet it won Pittsford recognition and awards nationwide, including an Outstanding Planning Award from the American Planning Association; the Current Topics Award for Preservation of Places in the American Planning Association's National Planning Awards; and the Alexander Calder Conservation Award from The Conservation Fund.

In the years since, recognitions for Pittsford's accomplishments have continued. What's more important are the policies that earned those recognitions, and the Town's accomplishments in the area of environmental responsibility.

### A Clean Energy Community

In 2017 Pittsford earned designation by the State of New York as a Clean Energy Community.

We earned it by adopting practices and accomplishing goals determined by the State to have a high-impact on sustainability. As one of the early adopters of the Clean Energy Community Program, Pittsford became eligible for State grant money to pay for additional projects to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, to cut costs and to drive the use of clean energy locally. We competed for the grant and we won, receiving the maximum award of \$50,000. That's going to fund another Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station and a roof-mounted solar array to power the lodges at King's Bend Park and serve as a demonstration project for sustainable solar energy. You'll see work on both projects this summer.

Our commitment to the kind of policies and programs that made Pittsford a Clean Energy Community forms the basis for our sustainability

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## Pittsford, Brighton & Irondequoit Pursue Green Energy Together

Town Supervisor Bill Smith joined with Irondequoit Town Supervisor Dave Seeley, Brighton Town Supervisor Bill Moeble and Matt Halladay of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council to announce in December that the three Towns and the Village of Pittsford are

moving forward together to explore obtaining electricity for their respective communities from 100% renewable sources, at a cost below the RG&E electricity rate. This initiative is made possible through the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program, authorized by the New York State Public Service Commission.

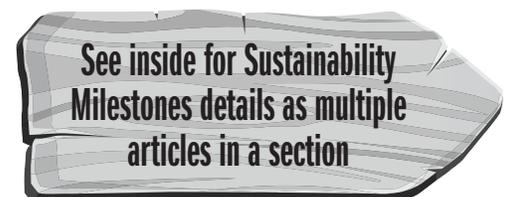
The four municipalities have each executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow for the joint selection of a third-party administrator to secure a 100% renewable clean energy product. Joining with other municipalities puts Pittsford in a stronger position to be able to provide residents with energy from 100% renewable sources at a cost

lower than the regular RG&E rate. Pittsford and the other three municipalities have issued a Request for Proposals, inviting potential CCA administrators to respond. This new partnership represents one of the largest collaborative CCA efforts in New York State outside of Westchester County, encompassing potentially over 50,000 utility customers.

Should the towns and village move forward, residents would remain RG&E customers – the major change being the source of energy supply provided by the utility. Under the State CCA program, any resident wishing to opt out of a local CCA program may do so at any time and continue to receive the default utility supply.



*GFL RPC's Matt Halladay, Irondequoit Supervisor Dave Seeley, Brighton Supervisor Bill Moeble and Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith announced plans to collectively explore joint procurement of energy on behalf of their respective communities. This new partnership represents one of the largest collaborative CCA efforts in New York State outside of Westchester County, encompassing potentially over 50,000 utility customers.*



# The Town's Ongoing Commitment to Sustainability

## Town Receives \$50K Clean Energy Grant

The Town of Pittsford won a \$50,000 Clean Energy Community grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for the Town's proposed project for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction. The Town's project takes a multi-faceted approach, with community benefit at the forefront.

Part of the grant will fund installation of an EV (electric vehicle) charging station at the Spiegel Community Center. Funds from the grant have also been allocated for installing solar panels on Town-owned buildings. The solar panels will make Town buildings more energy efficient and will reduce the Town's energy costs, which in turn passes savings along to our taxpayers.

The Town became eligible for the funding when it was designated in 2017, by the State of New York, as a "Clean Energy Community." The Town earned the Clean Energy Community designation by completing sustainability initiatives defined by the State as having a high impact and aimed at reducing energy use and carbon emissions, cutting costs and driving use of clean energy locally. These included, among others, installing the electric vehicle charging station you'll find in our Library parking lot.



## Community Center Features Green Amenities

When we opened our restored and expanded Spiegel Community Center last August, it marked a great step forward for the Town's sustainable energy practices. The Community Center now features motion sensing lights and faucets that stay on only as long as needed and a completely updated, and vastly more efficient, heating and cooling system. The building has all new energy-efficient windows as well, which replaced ones installed in the 1980s. The result: a state of the art facility that not only provides outstanding services and amenities to our residents, but also reduces our carbon footprint, saves energy, and saves taxpayer dollars.

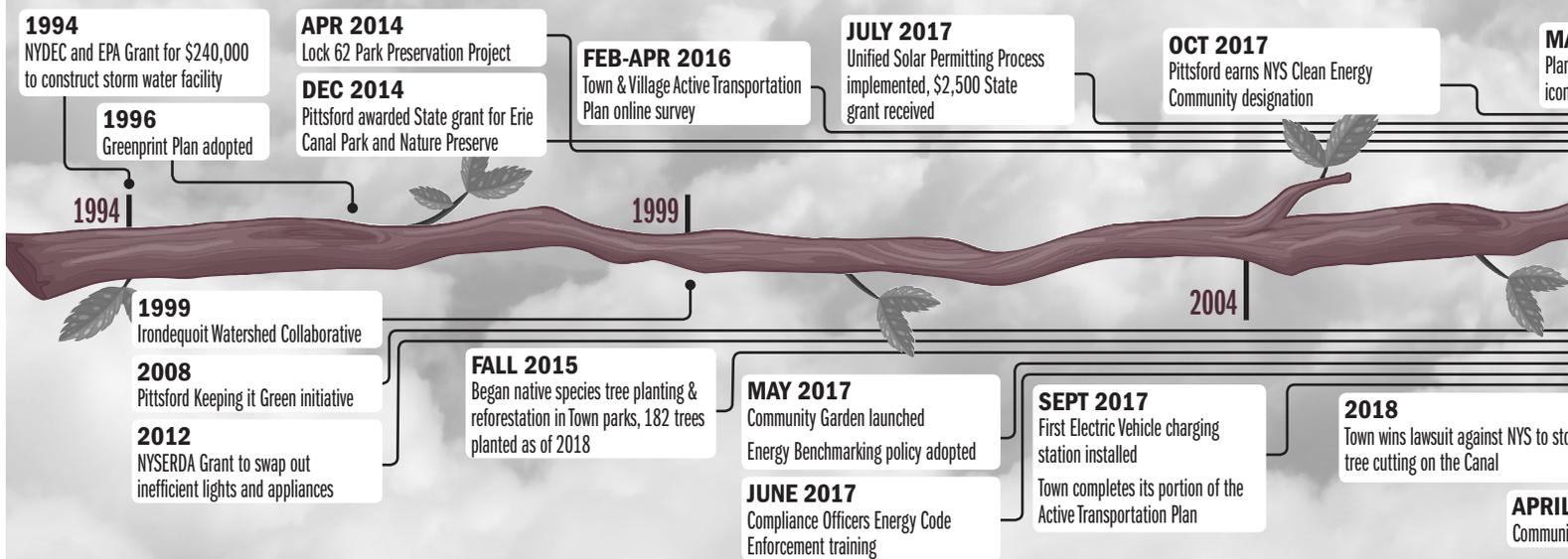
## Community Choice Aggregation

Community Choice Aggregation – CCA – is a concept whereby a municipality can leverage the collective buying power of its residents to obtain electricity for all households at a lower cost than they could obtain acting individually, while supporting sustainable sources of electricity. Our first step in approaching a CCA program for Pittsford was to engage the public. In 2018, following two very well-attended public meetings and a subsequent public hearing, the Town adopted legislation last September that permits us to proceed with a CCA program. The goal is to seek electricity at a cost to residents less than the RG&E electricity rate, in a program that supports sustainable sources to the fullest possible extent.

If leveraging the buying power of a whole community can make this goal possible, leveraging multiple communities can be even more successful in obtaining the lowest price for residents. For

this reason, as Pittsford was going through the process of public engagement on this subject, Town Supervisor Bill Smith contacted leaders of other nearby communities interested in CCA to see if they would want to move forward together. Consequently, in December Supervisor Smith joined with Irondequoit Town Supervisor Dave Seeley and Brighton Town Supervisor Bill Moehle to announce that the three Towns, together with the Village of Pittsford, were joining forces in pursuit of a joint CCA program. The four municipal partners are now in the process of selecting a CCA administrator, who will seek bids from electric power suppliers and administer the program. The next step will be for the selected administrator to request bids for an electricity package meeting the specifications of the three towns: lower cost than RG&E and supporting sustainable electricity production to the fullest extent.

# Town of Pittsford's Leadership in Sustainability Practices



## New Composting Program at Community Center

The Town's most recent sustainability initiative is our composting program. In partnership with Impact Earth, the Town has launched a program for composting, beginning at the Spiegel Community Center. Instead of throwing away food scraps from the Senior lunch programs, the Town now collects them. Impact Earth picks up the material and composts it, using worm composting and other natural methods. That turns it into nutrient rich soil for use in agriculture. Some of the compost gets returned to Pittsford, for use in our Community Garden at Thornell Farm Park.

The program has multiple benefits: it not only allows us to reduce waste, it also improves our environment and encourages sustainable practices – a win for everyone involved. The Town is currently exploring options for expanding our composting efforts to encompass other areas at the Community Center and other Town-owned facilities.



## Erie Canal Nature Park and Preserve

The Town owns 15 acres of land along the Erie Canal, between the Canal and the Auburn Trail. The Village of Pittsford owns an adjoining parcel of about the same size. Following discussion with the Village about prospects for a nature preserve comprised of both parcels, the Town in 2014 applied to the State of New York for a grant to make a publicly accessible nature preserve of its own canalside property. The Town won the grant in 2015.

Consistent with the spirit and substance of the Town's and Village's joint Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, that was built on significant public comment and engagement, the project recognizes the tremendous potential of this site in the heart of Pittsford. Our Erie Canal Nature Park and Preserve protects and conserves wetlands, woodlands and natural areas abundant with native plants and trees. It allows for a trail connection between the Erie Canal Path and the Auburn Rail Trail. Trails within the site will allow for passive recreation and accessibility.

Recently the Town participated in the local "Save the Frogs" day – an effort the Town values as well. The nature preserve will protect and conserve an established frog breeding habitat with four ponds.

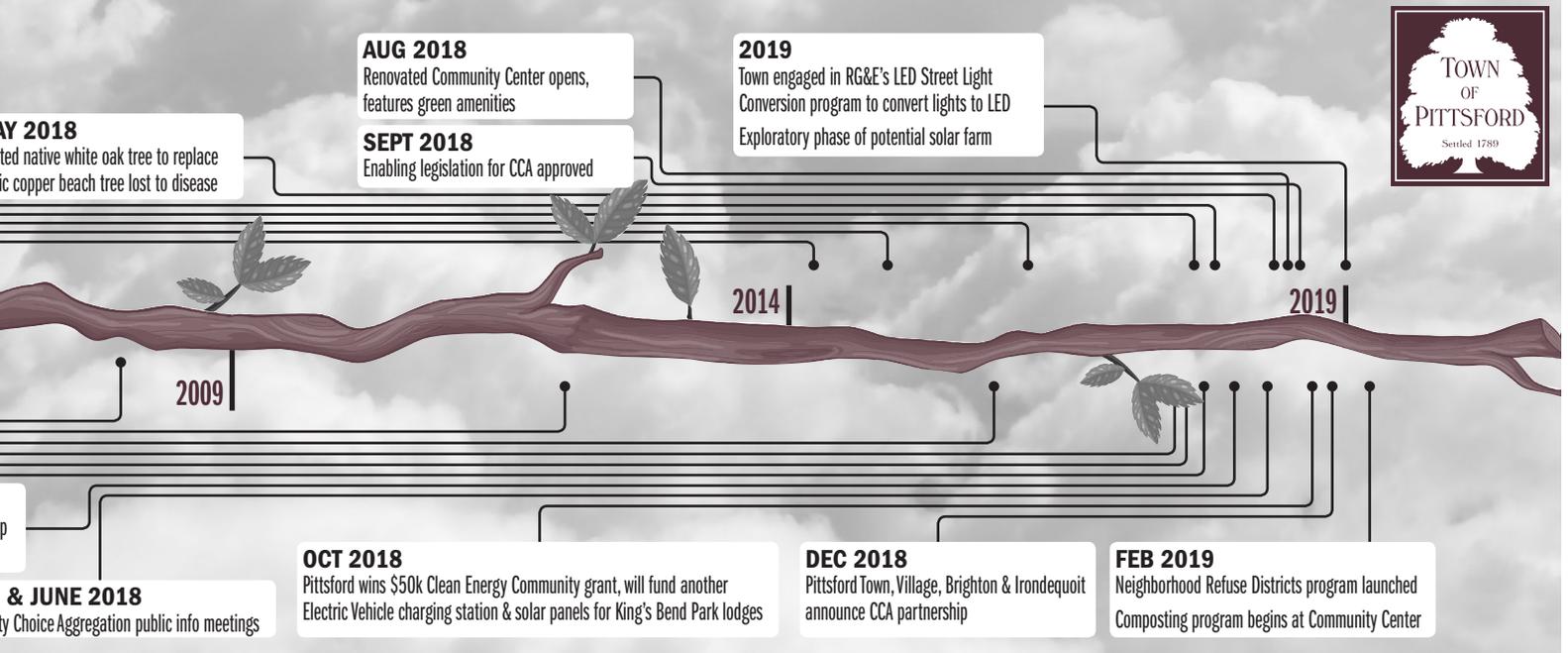
Right now our staff is meeting with the landscape architect engaged for the project to plan the trails and amenities necessary to make the site accessible, while preserving its unspoiled condition. Village representatives are included in the planning, to help ensure that the preserve's trails and design will be compatible with any project the Village might undertake to do the same with its adjacent parcel of land. This would provide Pittsford residents with a 30-acre joint Town-Village Nature Preserve, in a central location on the waterfront.



The Town partnered with the Village to present Arbor Day & Environmental Awareness Day. Pittsford Village DPW staff member Sophie Bennett hands out tree seedlings to residents.

## Arbor Day and Environmental Awareness Day

At the end of April the Town partnered with the Village of Pittsford for a joint Arbor Day and Environmental Awareness Day. Residents picked up free seedlings to plant at their own homes. The Town offered biodegradable garbage bags and biodegradable gloves, both for home use and for those participating in the Canal cleanup effort. The event offered entertainment, food, fun and, importantly, education on environmental initiatives such as sustainable lawn care practices.



## Solar Farm Options

Those of us committed to a sustainable future are interested in opportunities for local renewable energy production. To this end, Town staffers have been evaluating the feasibility and exploring options for a solar farm on Town land. The Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council has initiated preliminary analysis of Town land in the vicinity of the Thruway, yet substantially out of sight, and has concluded there is ample reason a solar farm operator would be interested in siting a project there under contract with the Town. Such projects are at no cost, or at minimal cost, to the Town. If such a project went forward, the Town would not place it in a site visible from residential neighborhoods or from roads. Such a project would proceed only after extensive public engagement and with a clear indication of substantial public support.

## Community Garden

In 2017 the Town launched the Pittsford Community Garden, at Thornell Farm Park, starting with 40 raised garden beds that offer residents the opportunity for hands-on gardening that might not otherwise be possible for them. Tools, water, mulch and compost are provided at the site. It's been so popular that we added six garden beds last year.



## Tree Stewardship

For years the Town's policy has been to plant at least as many trees each year as we cut down. Most years we plant many more. And on the subject of trees: Pittsford took the lead, in joining last year with other affected municipalities, to take the State Power Authority to court to stop them from clear cutting trees on the canal. Pittsford's Town Attorney, Robert Koegel, argued the case in Supreme Court on behalf of Pittsford, Perinton and Brighton. We won. Now the goal is to reach an agreement with the State for a canalside tree management program that protects living trees, unless there's a convincingly demonstrable and immediate need to remove them, in a manner acceptable to our residents.

## LED Street Light Conversion

The Town has been working on a project to convert our street lights from conventional lighting to LED lighting. Recent changes in State law and policies now make this much more financially practical than previously. It means less energy use and one more step to a sustainable future. And it pays for itself in the near term, over just a couple of years, through reduced energy and maintenance costs. Town Councilman Matt O'Connor, the Town Board's point person on environmental matters, has been working on this with town staffers and the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

## Responsible Lawn Care

### Find tips on the Town website

The Town has launched an effort to encourage residents to follow the Town's practice of extremely limited herbicide and pesticide use, only when necessary. Nearly all of the herbicides and pesticides used in Pittsford are applied by lawn service companies to private homes. To put it in context, every year the Town uses less of these substances on all 1,300 acres it maintains than just *two* homes on average sized lots that engage a lawn service. There are 9,500 homes in Pittsford. It's the difference between an eyedropper and a tidal wave.

If you use a lawn service, please carefully review with your lawn company your property's actual needs. Don't pay for what you don't need. For example, most lawn service plans treat for grubs in spring and fall. But grubs don't feed in the spring. Experts say that for this reason, spring treatment is unnecessary and wastes your money.

For tips to help you cultivate a healthy lawn in a way that costs less and is better for the environment, visit [www.townofpittsford.org/responsible-lawn-care](http://www.townofpittsford.org/responsible-lawn-care) or [www.townofpittsford.org/toxin-free](http://www.townofpittsford.org/toxin-free). You'll find information for smarter lawn service use as well as how to do toxin-free lawn maintenance. Many thanks to the engaged residents who are partnering with the Town in this effort.

The Town of Pittsford  
**Recycles 100% of its Yard Debris**  
 into **FREE** mulch  
 and has been doing so for over 35 years!

## Yard Debris Collection Underway: May 6 - November 29

### The Town of Pittsford has started collecting yard debris

**Bagged and Containerized:** Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, vines, smaller yard debris, etc. must be placed in reusable containers or paper bags.

**Loose Debris:** Brush and branches can be bundled or placed in loose piles at the road edge, behind the curb or gutter.

Yard debris will be picked up on your scheduled day each week through November 29. Find your weekly yard debris pickup day using our interactive **Yard Debris Collection Day Map** at <http://tech.townofpittsford.org/YardDebris> or visit the link under the "Services" tab on the Town website.

Please follow these General Guidelines for Yard Debris Collection:

- There will be no collection on Memorial Day and Labor Day. Schedules will shift by one day following the holiday.
- Yard debris must be out by 6AM on your scheduled day to ensure proper collection.

- If you live on a private drive, please take materials to the nearest public street.
- The schedule can vary slightly due to weather conditions and volume of debris.
- Yard debris generated by anyone other than the homeowner, such as a contractor or lawn service, must be removed as part of their service. They can take it to Pittsford's Highway Department, 60 Golf Avenue, weekdays from 7AM to 3:30PM.
- Please place yard debris behind the curb or gutter to avoid impeding traffic and blocking drainage pathways in your neighborhood.

**Please Note:** *The schedule for collecting both bagged debris and loose debris is now the same: May 6 through November 29.* Previous communications had stated a shorter pickup schedule for loose debris. We've changed this to make it more convenient for our residents.

Complete information about our Yard Debris Collection program can be found in the info card previously mailed to all households or at [www.townofpittsford.org/home\\_yard\\_debris](http://www.townofpittsford.org/home_yard_debris).

## Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony is May 27

Join us at Pittsford's annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 27 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.



### From the Supervisor (continued)

accomplishments. I've listed some of these milestones below. You can learn more about them on the pages within this edition of The Messenger.

- Community Choice Aggregation
- LED Street Light Conversion
- Protecting and Fostering Trees
- Community Garden
- Composting Program
- Solar Farm Options
- Erie Canal Nature Park and Preserve

### Long-Range Planning and Continuing Improvement

New opportunities arise all the time that permit us to pursue sustainability initiatives. In addition to our plans to convert street lights to LED lighting and explore solar energy options, the Town also recently expressed to the New York Power Authority (NYPA) our interest in becoming a host site for an Interstate DC Fast Charging station, given our proximity to exits 45 and 46 along the Thruway and ease of access to I-490 and I-590.

Through its EVolve NY program, the NYPA has committed \$40 million to such initiatives for 2019. NYPA has noted our request and we await a final decision from them.

To further strengthen our sustainable energy initiatives and green practices, I've asked the Town's Environmental Board to look into certain specific matters in addition to its ongoing work of reviewing applications for development. These include additional strategies to protect the Erie Canal embankment from clear-cutting of trees by the State Power Authority and our planning for converting street lights to LED lighting.

We believe sustainable energy practices are important to the well-being and future success of our community, which is why this issue of The Messenger focuses on the topic. We want to keep you informed of our sustainability efforts and hope you will share with us your thoughts on current initiatives and future opportunities. As always, we welcome your comments and insights – they are what enables us to determine the best path forward for our community.

## Exceptional Facility Design Award for Community Center

The Town of Pittsford won the 2018 Exceptional Facility Design Award presented by the Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society (GVRPS). The award recognized the Town's renovation and expansion of the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. "Former Town Councilwoman Mary Gehl Doyle, Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck and Commissioner of Public Works Paul Schenkel were instrumental in the success of the Community Center project" said Town Supervisor Bill Smith. "I truly appreciate their hard work and unwavering commitment to transform our community center into an exceptional facility for our residents. I'm proud to congratulate them for this well-deserved recognition."



Town Supervisor Bill Smith congratulates Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck (left) and Commissioner of Public Works Paul Schenkel (right) for their efforts which resulted in the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center receiving the Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society 2018 Exceptional Facility Design Award.

## Comprehensive Plan Update



We had great turnout and participation at the Town Comprehensive Plan Workshop on January 28. Those who couldn't attend can visit PittsfordPlan.com and go to the "Resources" link to view the draft plan and a presentation on the background to our Comprehensive Plan prepared by our consultants Bergmann Associates. The plan website also has a place to provide comments online about the plan. Many thanks to our Pittsford community members who came out to participate. We encourage those who couldn't make the workshop to look over the draft plan online and submit comments.

## Welcome Library Director Amanda Kuhnel Madigan

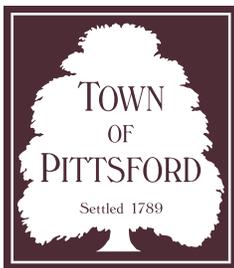
We're very pleased to welcome Amanda Kuhnel Madigan as Director of the Pittsford Community Library. Amanda joined the Library staff in 2010 as an adult services librarian. She's lent her considerable skills, experience and leadership to a variety of duties since then, including programming, reference services, and adult media and non-fiction collections. She also supervised the Library's circulation department and worked on a variety of special projects before becoming Assistant Director in 2015. Amanda is very active within the Monroe County Library System, having served on the organization's Directors' Council, Emerging Technologies Committee, Events Committee and Adult Programming Team. Said Amanda, "I'm honored and excited to continue working together with our Library staff to further our mission – to connect community members with exceptional resources and experiences in a warm, welcoming environment!"



Pittsford Community Library Director Amanda Kuhnel Madigan.

## Fireworks Notification Process

The Town's Fireworks Notifications are posted on the Town website, on its Facebook page and in the Town's eNews. Mailed notifications are sent to those who request them. To request a mailed Fireworks Notification, please contact Kelly Cline at kcline@townofpittsford.org or 248-6250. To sign up for the eNews, use the "eNews" side-tab on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org. 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.



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**Supervisor**

William A. Smith, Jr.

**Town Board**

Kate Bohne Munzinger  
*Deputy Town Supervisor*

Kevin S. Beckford

Matthew J. O'Connor

Stephanie M. Townsend

**GO SOCIAL WITH THE TOWN OF PITTSFORD!**

Stay up to date by following the Town of Pittsford on social media. You can find us on:



THE PITTSFORD MESSENGER | MAY 2019

WWW.TOWNOFPITTSFORD.ORG

**Save these dates for 2019 community events!**

**Community Celebrations**

Paddle and Pour Art & Music Festival..... Saturday, 5/25, Noon-10PM  
Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony ..... Monday, 5/27, 10AM  
Food Truck & Music Fest on Main St. .... Saturday, 9/14, Noon-9PM  
Family Halloween Fest at SJF College ..... Sunday, 10/20, 2-5PM

**Family Outdoor Movies**

**Thursdays at Dark, Sutherland High School (55 Sutherland Street)**  
July 18 ..... *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)*  
August 1 ..... *Mary Poppins Returns (PG)*  
August 15 ..... *Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG)*

**Concerts for Kids**

**Wednesdays at 6:30PM • Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford**  
July 10 ..... Mr. Loops (*Kids' Rock*)  
Aug 7 ..... Topher Holt (*Family Friendly Music*)

**Summer Concert Series**

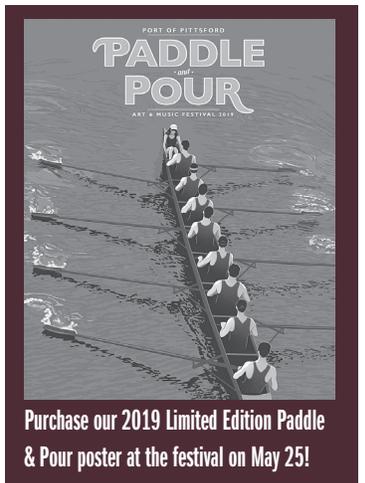
**Fridays at 6:30PM • Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford**

June 14 ..... Mendon High School Band  
June 21 ..... Miller & the Other Sinners w/special guest Joe Beard  
*(Blues, R&B & Soul)*  
June 28 ..... Music Makers (*Jazz, Swing & Rock*)  
July 12 ..... Prime Time Funk (*Funk, Soul & R&B*)  
July 19 ..... Up 2 Somethin (*Dance, Pop & Rock*)/PYS Duck Drop  
*Rubber ducks in the canal raise funds for Pittsford Youth Services!*  
July 26 ..... Smugtown Stompers (*Dixieland Jazz*)  
August 2 ..... Mr. Mustard (*Beatles Tribute Band*)  
August 9 ..... Pittsford Fire Department Band (*Pops*)

**PITTSFORD VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET**

In partnership with the  
Town of Pittsford & Impact Earth  
**Saturdays 9:00AM - 1:00PM**  
**June 15 - September 29**  
Spiegel Pittsford Community Center  
**35 Lincoln Ave.**

Locally grown, raised and produced items, including  
fruits, vegetables, eggs, flowers, baked goods,  
natural products and reusable wares, plus live  
music, artisans and youth activities.  
[www.pittsfordvillagefarmersmarket.org](http://www.pittsfordvillagefarmersmarket.org)



Purchase our 2019 Limited Edition Paddle & Pour poster at the festival on May 25!



**eNews Signup**

For updates on Town news, sign up for our weekly eNews on the Town website.

We never share your email address; it is used only for the eNews and urgent/emergency Town notifications.

See our Special Events mailer for details about Town festivals, concerts and events.

As events approach, updated information can also be found at

[www.townofpittsford.org/community-events](http://www.townofpittsford.org/community-events).