

From the Supervisor

Standing Together for Pittsford

Local government is the level closest to each of us. Administered conscientiously, it often can do the best job of making residents aware of issues that can affect them, offering principled advice about how to deal with these issues and giving voice – and action – to the public’s intentions. All are implicit in my responsibilities to you as Town Supervisor.

All have come up in recent months in different ways. Each a fine example, I think, of the Town administration and residents working together to improve Pittsford and the quality of life so important to us all.

Reducing Power Outages

I’ve never lived anywhere where it seems electric power fails more frequently than here.

In December the Town Board and I wrote to the State Public Service Commission to ask it to require an improvement plan from RG&E for reducing power outages. Thereafter I spoke directly with Commissioner James Alesi about the problem and the reasons for our letter. The Commission’s response showed thoughtful consideration. I’ve been encouraged by it, in particular because of the level of specific detail as to practical next steps.

As an additional effort to work with RG&E to help reduce the frequency and duration of power outages in Pittsford, I met with Carl Taylor, President and CEO of RG&E. He was most forthcoming, directly addressing the core issue about what the company is doing, and plans to do, in order to improve service. RG&E has been living up to commitments made at that meeting and subsequently. Many of you will have noticed stepped-up trimming of trees alongside power lines all over Town. This represents just one aspect of the effort. RG&E has responded as well to another request at that meeting, and has been working to remove extra telephone poles at the many sites in Town where two poles stand together.

In addition to the data we have at Town Hall, it’s been information that residents share with us about outages that made it possible to make our case with specificity, both to the power supplier and the state regulator.

The Town’s dialogue with RG&E and the Public Service Commission has been necessary. So far, it promises to be productive as well. I’ll continue to engage with both as we work to reduce power outages in Pittsford.

Keeping Local Control of Local Zoning

A central principle of representative local government is the right of the people who live in a municipality to make the zoning and land-use decisions that affect where they live. That affect their own neighborhood.

They do it through their part in shaping their town’s Comprehensive Plan and through their town, village or city elected officials.

Before the State Legislature right now is a bill in each house that would take away this right.



Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

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- Keeping Zoning Control Local
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- Native Plants – a Healthy Choice for the Environment
- Summer Safety Tips



eNews Signup

Stay up to date on Town meetings, projects, programs, services and events – sign up for our weekly eNews.



townofpittsford.org/enews

Standing Together for Pittsford

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If enacted, the State would take over control of local residential zoning. The proposed law explicitly would eliminate the ability of towns to allow neighborhoods consisting of single-family homes. Precisely the neighborhoods so many Pittsford residents live in, and have invested in. Under this proposal:

- Every existing house could be turned into a multi-family rental. In every neighborhood.
- A separate, detached rental residence could be built on every existing neighborhood lot.
- Applies to every **existing** residential lot – not just future development. In **every** neighborhood.
- No exceptions.
- No environmental review allowed. (This is required for nearly every other building).
- No other local review allowed.
- An unprecedented impact on many quality-of-life issues, including:
 - increased traffic on neighborhood streets, potentially doubling it;
 - major increase in parked cars on streets;
 - serious impact on School Districts as enrollments swell, driving school taxes higher;
 - major strain on town infrastructure: roads, sewers, water and more;
 - reduction of greenspace.

Governor Hochul included this proposed new law in her initial State budget for 2022.

In February I advised Pittsford's residents about this, asking you to join me in contacting the Governor, our State representatives and those running this year to be elected as our State representatives, to insist that the Governor remove this from her budget package. I brought it to the attention of all the other Town Supervisors in Monroe County as well.

Thanks to your advocacy and mine – and to the robustly bipartisan advocacy of elected officials and residents across the State of New York – the Governor dropped this proposal from her budget.



That advocacy included a letter to the Governor and State legislators from the Monroe County Supervisors' Association signed by 18 of the 19 Town Supervisors in Monroe County – a fully bipartisan effort. Use the QR code at left to read the letter, or you can see it at

www.townofpittsford.org/files/images/ADU-home-rule-supervisors-ltrr.pdf. A similar letter was sent from all ten Village Mayors in Monroe County.

My thanks to so many of you who responded to my request to contact the Governor and State representatives to express your views. Together with countless others across the State, we made a difference.

However, although dropped from the Governor's budget, the same proposal for State takeover of local zoning remains pending in both houses of the State Legislature.

This will directly affect your neighborhood. Yours.

My pledge to you as Town Supervisor is to continue to do everything within my ability and authority to stop it.

The fight continues.

Saving Trees on the Canal

In 2017 the New York Power Authority presented plans to clearcut trees along the Erie Canal in Pittsford and in many other places. The Power Authority acquired jurisdiction over the State Canal Corporation in 2016. In 2018 Pittsford went to court, joined by Brighton and Perinton, to stop the clearcutting plan. Pittsford residents made it unmistakably clear to me that you support our efforts to stop the clearcutting. Consequently, the Town succeeded in obtaining an injunction to stop any tree cutting at least until the Power Authority conducted the environmental review required by State law, which it had neglected.

The Power Authority completed that initial review and filed last summer its Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and a draft Guide Book for the proposed tree cutting. Last fall it held hearings on these documents. I attended and spoke on behalf of Pittsford, emphasizing that the Power Authority has not plausibly established a need for clearcutting. I reminded them as well that decisions they make about cutting trees on the Canal in Pittsford are subject to the consent of our Planning Board, pursuant to the Town's Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan. The Authority is bound by law to observe it.

Our goal is to reach a reasonable accommodation whereby the Power Authority will not clearcut trees, but rather will take down only deadwood and trees posing a hazard to houses along the embankment, and otherwise remove only trees posing a clear and convincing threat to the integrity of the embankment. We await the Power Authority's response to the many comments and issues raised by our citizens and those of Perinton and Brighton. I stand by our commitment to a reasonable solution that takes into account both safety and the environment.

Marijuana

An important issue before Town Board in 2021 was deciding whether to permit retail sales of marijuana and marijuana lounges in the Town. Under the State's new law legalizing it, the Board had to vote before December 31. Otherwise both marijuana sales and lounges automatically would have been permitted, pursuant to State law.

To evaluate residents' wishes, we held two public hearings. Both very well attended, and by people who normally don't come out to Town Board meetings – an indicator of genuine and organic public opinion on a matter. At the first forum, 76% opposed marijuana sales and lounges, 20% supported

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Full Schedule for Town Events

Our traditional schedule of community events is back in full for 2022! You can find complete information and updates as events approach at www.townofpittsford.org/events.

Watch for our **Town Events mailer** as well – it will go to all homes by mid-May. In the meantime, keep these dates in mind:

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

Monday, May 30 • 10:00am

Steps off from Sutherland Street, proceeds down Jefferson Road to South Main Street, concluding at the Pittsford Cemetery on Washington Road with a moving ceremony.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Fridays at 6:30pm

June 10 – August 26

(no concert July 1)

Canalside in Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford

COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

Paddle and Pour Art & Music Festival

Saturday, May 28 • Noon – 10:00pm

Location for this year: Municipal parking lot behind the Library.

FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIES

Thursdays at dark

July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25

Sutherland High School field

Main Street Food Truck & Music Fest

Saturday, September 10 • Noon – 9:00pm

Family Halloween Fest

at the Community Center

Sunday, October 23 • 2:00 – 5:00pm

CONCERTS FOR KIDS

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

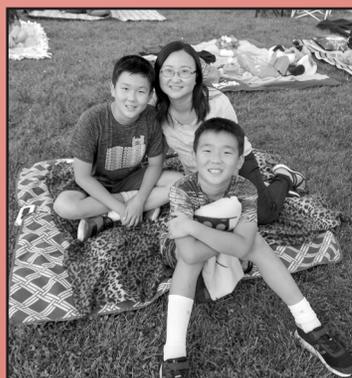
July 20, August 3 & August 17

Spiegel Pittsford Community Center field

We'll include info and updates in our weekly eNewsletter as well – if you aren't receiving it yet, you can sign up at www.townofpittsford.org/enews. Subscribers receive only the Town's weekly eNews and any urgent public notifications from the Town government; we do not share our email list with any other organization.



Join us for great music along the Canal on Friday nights.



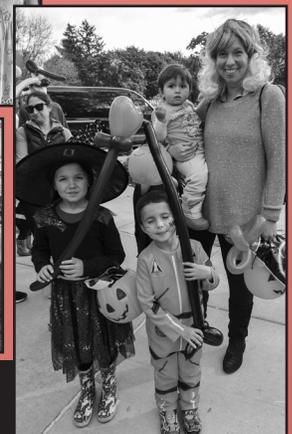
Movie nights are fun for the whole family!



Our Wednesday night Kids Concerts make everybody happy!



We have a full festival season this year!



Standing Together for Pittsford

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both and 4% supported sales but not lounges. At the second hearing, 85% opposed sales and lounges; 15% supported both.

By a 3-2 vote, a bipartisan majority of the Town Board voted to respect our residents' wishes and voted to opt out of marijuana sales and lounges in the Town of Pittsford. You can see the Board's discussion and vote here:

www.townofpittsford.org/files/tb-120821-opt-out.mp4

Subsequently, Village residents also rejected marijuana sales and lounges in the Village in a public referendum (State law lets villages hold such a referendum, but not towns).

Using Federal Funds for Town Improvements

Last summer the Town Board invited public advice on potential uses for the \$2.8 million in federal funds we received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and had the means of communication in place for Pittsford residents to comment. We reiterated this request for public comment in the months following. We did so again recently, concurrently with having our Town Department Heads brief the Town Board on initiatives postponed due to COVID and other necessary or publicly beneficial projects that qualify for ARPA funding. Meant to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic, ARPA funds allow municipalities to recoup revenue losses, to complete deferred projects, programs and maintenance and pursue other projects related to municipal services. Pursuant to terms of the federal grant, these funds must be used or committed by the end of 2024. The federal law authorizing this funding explicitly forbids using the funds to offset property taxes.

Here are improvements the Town Board has approved to date that can be paid for from ARPA funds:

Parks and Trails Improvements:

- Resurface Tennis, Pickleball and Basketball Courts at Thornell Farm Park
- Replace Dog Park Locks
- Reseal Thornell Farm Park Parking Lot
- Reconstruct Isaac Gordon Parking Lot
- Kings Bend Park Building Improvements - replace picture windows and ceiling fans
- Purchase Ventrac Tractor with attachments
- Replace 20 Soccer Nets
- Great Embankment Park Pollinator Garden and Native Trees and Plantings
- Auburn Trail Neighborhood Connections Project
- Farm View Park Improvements - including additional bleachers, outfield fencing and foul poles

The cost of these improvements is \$281,930.

Library Improvements:

- Eliminate Overdue Fines for Children's and Teen Materials
- Additional Self-Checkout Kiosk
- Interactive Touch Screen Displays for video conferencing, casting, and whiteboard collaboration
- Update Learning Center Configuration for current technology and user needs
- Audit Library's Collection for scope, representation of different points of view and materials that meet the needs of adults, teens, and children
- Building Maintenance Deferred due to COVID-19: replacing windows, doors and an HVAC unit; repairing roof, upgrading fire alarm system
- Adding Outdoor Seating
- Bike Rack Improvements
- Landscape Improvements

The cost of these improvements is \$170,000.

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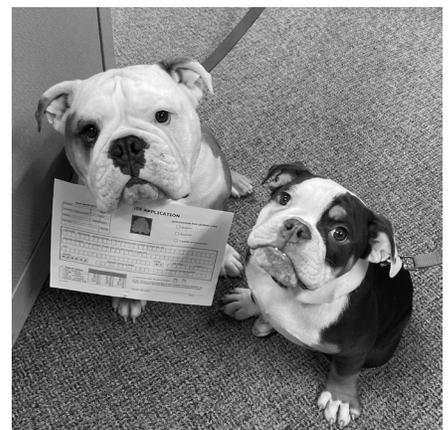
Drive-Through Rabies Clinic

The Town of Pittsford's annual Rabies Free Clinic will be a drive-through event at the Town Highway Garage, 60 Golf Avenue and open to dogs, cats and ferrets, **but has been postponed due to a County rabies vaccine shortage**. Check the Town eNews or visit the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org for a future reschedule date.



Dog Licensing – Help Keep Your Pet Safe!

For your dog's safety, and by New York State law, dogs are required to be licensed at the age of 4 months and are required to wear their municipal dog license tag. Should your dog get lost, a license tag helps identify the owner. It can even provide contact information for your dog's veterinarian if your pet is lost and needs medical care. Licensing your dog or renewing a license is easy – just ask Jax, who recently brought his new little brother Sully to Town Hall for his first license! For complete information about licensing your dog, visit www.townofpittsford.org/animal-control/dog-licensing.





A Fond Farewell and Many Thanks to Kelly Cline

The Town’s long-time Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal and Emergency Services Manager Kelly Cline has retired after more than 30 years of service to the people of Pittsford. With knowledge, integrity and commitment Kelly has contributed to the success of our community. And with compassion as well. Kelly’s devotion to Pittsford includes over 40 years of service as a member of our Volunteer Fire Department. Many thanks to you, Kelly, for making Pittsford a better place. We miss you and wish you all the best for a happy retirement.



Welcome Salvatore Tantalo

Salvatore Tantalo has joined the Town staff as our new Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal and Emergency Services Manager. Bringing extensive experience of over 20 years in emergency services, public safety, disaster preparedness and emergency management, Salvatore also serves as a Fire Instructor for the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Since 2021 he’s served as Operations Manager, involved in technical rescue and response operations, for Monroe County Fire Bureau’s Special Operations Unit. Salvatore has been a member of the Bushnell’s Basin Fire Department for over 20 years and currently serves as its Assistant Fire Chief. He’ll be the Town’s liaison with local fire and emergency services organizations. Welcome, Salvatore!



Kim Taylor Joins Town Board

In January the Town Board welcomed its newest member, Councilmember Kim Taylor. Kim took the oath of office at the Town Board’s first meeting of the year, along with re-elected members Councilmember Stephanie Townsend and Supervisor Bill Smith.

An attorney for nearly two decades, Kim manages the assigned counsel program for the regional Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, covering 22 counties. She began her legal career as a law clerk at the Appellate Division, then worked in Family Court as a Senior Deputy Monroe County Attorney. Before law school Kim worked as a counselor to at-risk youth and women in crisis.

Kim holds a Bachelor’s Degree from SUNY Geneseo and her Juris Doctorate from Buffalo Law School. She and her husband, Bill Taylor, live in Pittsford with their four children.

Farewell to Councilmember Kevin Beckford

In December the Town Board said goodbye to Councilmember Kevin Beckford. During his four-year term Kevin’s observations and his passion became familiar features of Town Board meetings. He served as liaison to several Town volunteer boards and committees and helped work toward the success of significant Town initiatives, such as the Community Solar program. He was instrumental in developing the Town’s Martin Luther King Day events, recommended revising Town wage scales for entry-level positions and participated in their revision. With thanks to Kevin for his service on the Board, we wish him well.



We’re Hiring!



The Town of Pittsford posts various job openings throughout the year. You’ll find complete information about current opportunities on our website at www.townofpittsford.org/hr/pittsford-employment-opportunities. For details about applying, visit our Human Resources web page at www.townofpittsford.org/hr.

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Technology Improvements to Protect Your Data and the Town's:

- Security Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Compliance Audit to safeguard information of credit card holders and prevent losses
- Security Information and Event Management system to identify security threats and vulnerabilities before they can disrupt business operations
- Upgraded and secure Cloud migration of Data
- Upgrade of Town's financial software for accounts payable, budget, fixed assets, general ledger, and the like
- Backup Servers
- Two iMacs and 2 MacBooks for the Library
- Interactive Display-Town Hall meeting room
- Training for Information Technology Staff

The cost of these improvements is \$161,700.

Pickleball Courts

Of all public comments received, the overwhelming number asked us to provide regulation courts for the game of pickleball. This made sense in light of the interest in pickleball that residents have expressed to staff

in our Recreation Department. I asked our Recreation Department and Public Works Department to think about options for regulation pickleball courts. They were able to identify ways to accomplish the goal at reasonable cost.

At our Town Board meeting on April 5, the Commissioner of Public Works presented the options, and the Town Board approved creating four regulation pickleball courts at Thornell Farm Park.



The cost is estimated at \$20,000, and qualifies for ARPA funding. Subject to availability of materials, which has been an issue for municipalities and others recently, we expect to have these new courts open sometime this summer.

To view each of the presentations on ARPA funding recommendations by Town departments, visit www.townofpittsford.org/arpa-funding or use the QR code above.

A Continual Process

These examples I've described illustrate the role and importance of public participation in our local government, by sharing your advice and opinions with the Town Board and me. You can reach us 24/7 by

email and can email all Town Board members at once by using this link: www.townofpittsford.org/electedboard/contact.

If you prefer to wait until a Town Board meeting to let us know what's on your mind, you can. A decades-long tradition in Pittsford is public comment at our Town Board meetings. There's a public comment opportunity for each agenda item, as well as for general comments. You can comment in-person or by email, in advance or during the meeting. Information about attending Town Board meetings and submitting comments can be found in the Town Board agenda packet, which is posted at www.townofpittsford.org/minutes at least two days prior to the meeting date.

I keep an **open door policy and welcome visits** from residents at Town Hall during regular business hours Monday to Friday. As always, I'm available by phone at **248-6220** and by email at wsmith@townofpittsford.org.

I hold a **Supervisor's Open House** once a month at the Library for those who wish to discuss topics with me in person and for whom meetings with me during the week aren't convenient. Dates are listed in the Town's weekly eNewsletter and on my **Bill Smith Pittsford Town Supervisor** Facebook page.

Please let me know your thoughts on topics that matter to you.

Zoning Code Update Continues

Meetings are live streamed, public comments welcome

The Town's Zoning Code Update is under way. The purpose of the update is to bring the Zoning Code into alignment with the goals stated in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan and other recent planning initiatives, including the Joint Town-Village Active Transportation Plan. Through the Update the Town Board also intends to improve the Zoning Code's clarity and user-friendliness.

The Town's Zoning Update meetings are tentatively scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm, through the end of 2022. The meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed.

Comments for each meeting may be submitted in advance via mail or email, and may be submitted during each meeting either in person or via email. Complete information about the Update and meetings can be found at www.townofpittsford.org/zoningupdate. Meeting viewing and commenting information also can be found at on the Town website at www.townofpittsford.org/calendar.

Try Native Plantings – Easy to Grow, Good for the Environment

The Town is committed to planting species native to this area – and you can be too! Including native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs in the landscaping for your property benefits your home and the environment. Native plants are more tolerant of local insects, fungi, and other pests in our area. This means they're less likely to need synthetic sprays and chemicals to keep them healthy. And because they're more adapted to our climate and more resistant to damage from local pests, native plants generally require lower maintenance than exotic species. They also provide food and habitat for the wildlife in our region, thereby offering a great way to observe birds, butterflies, and other pollinators in action.

Spring is an excellent time to improve your lawn and garden with native plantings. For tips and information about which plants to choose, best planting conditions and the birds and pollinators you might expect to attract, the DEC and the Audubon Society have helpful resources. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/factnatives.pdf or www.audubon.org/native-plant for more information.



Be Part of Pittsford's Toxic-Free Lawn Challenge!

Lawn care season is upon us. We're happy to see how many Pittsford residents have decided to forego chemical treatments in favor of organic lawn care. Whether you go completely organic or are seeking to minimize use of synthetic chemicals on your lawn, the Town's Toxic-Free Challenge offers tips that can help you cultivate a healthy lawn that's healthy for the environment as well. Find information at www.townofpittsford.org/toxic-free and www.townofpittsford.org/responsible-lawn-care.

If you do decide to go toxic-free, please get and display our "Organic Yard" lawn sign. They're available on the front steps of Town Hall at 11 South Main Street and at the Pittsford Community Garden at Thornell Farm Park, 480 Mendon Road.

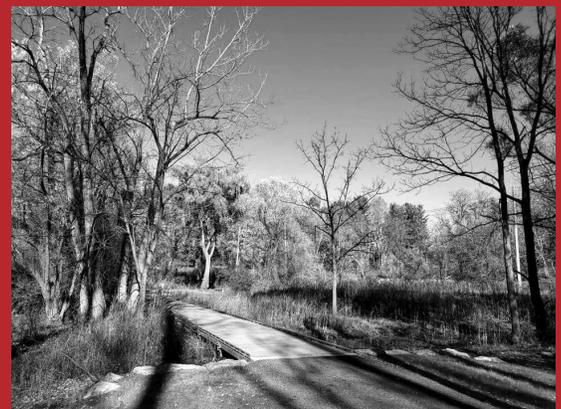


Yard Debris Collection Underway

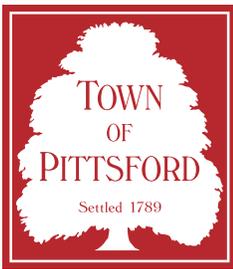
Early spring cleanup is now underway. Town crews have started collecting loose piles of leaves, thatch, brush, branches and yard debris on an on-going basis. This service will continue through at least December 1.

Regular **bagged and containerized** yard debris collection also has begun; our crews will pick it up weekly according to the schedule for your neighborhood. It also continues at least through December 1. For the weekly schedule for your neighborhood and for complete details about the Town's yard debris collection services, please consult the Town's Yard Debris Information card that we mailed to all homes in mid-March. Or you can visit www.townofpittsford.org/yard-debris.

Our trails and pathways provide walkers, hikers and cyclists interesting destinations, quiet seclusion, and an enjoyable means to get some fresh air and exercise. Check out our trail maps at www.townofpittsford.org/trailsandwalkways.



Frog Pond Trail at the Erie Canal Nature Preserve



11 South Main Street
Pittsford, New York 14534
(585) 248-6200

Supervisor

William A. Smith, Jr.

Town Board

Kate Bohne Munzinger
Deputy Town Supervisor
Cathleen A. Koshykar
Kim Taylor
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 Spring 2022

www.townofpittsford.org



Clip and Save!



Tips for a Safe & Healthy Summer

As the warmer weather approaches, we know many are quite eager to get active and enjoy the outdoors. When you do so, please keep health and safety in mind.

- **Wear a helmet, follow the rules of the road, and ensure you can be seen when bike riding. Make sure your kids do, too.** Reflectors on the back of your bike, a light in front and bright clothing help make you more visible to motorists. For the safest ride, the bike frame should be the right size for the rider. **Wear helmets when using scooters and skateboards, too.**
- **Keep pets, and yourself, safe from the heat – hot weather can be dangerous for anyone, especially kids and pets.** Don't leave kids or pets unattended in a hot car. When it's 70 degrees outside, a car can heat up to over 100 degrees in just 20 minutes! When the air temperature is 77 degrees, asphalt reaches 125 degrees – if it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for paws! Keeping hydrated in the heat is important for pets and people alike – be sure you both drink plenty of water. Know the signs of heat-related illness.
- **Pool safety** – pools should be inaccessible when not in use (locked, fenced, etc.) and should be supervised at all times when children are swimming. Be sure to use a pool alarm.
- **Campfire safety** – never leave a campfire unattended; when you're done with the fire, douse it with plenty of water, making sure all of the embers – not just the glowing ones – are thoroughly wet. Always have water available. If you don't have enough water, use dirt to bury the embers. All fires should be at least 15 feet from anything that could burn. Extinguish the fire when you retire!
- **Get active outdoors** – getting outside and keeping active is good for the mind, body and spirit. Summer is the perfect time to try a new activity or get back into the routine of a familiar favorite. It's also a great opportunity to enjoy an outdoor game or sport with family and friends.

Enjoy a safe summer!