

News & Reviews

March 8, 2023

Town of Pittsford - a Clean
Energy and Climate Smart
Community

See listings below for

Upcoming Activities, Town Board Meetings & Community Meetings

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR SMITH – TOWN RAILROAD SAFETY

Railroad safety and preparation for an emergency involving a toxic spill has been a priority of our Town administration since my early days as Supervisor. It was eight years ago that we initiated the request to CSX Transportation to give the Town prior notice when toxic or hazardous material would be shipped through Pittsford. Regulation of railroads falls exclusively under federal jurisdiction. Citing that, and what it described as risks to national security by publishing information terrorists could use to cause a toxic spill, CSX declined.

At the same time I was in communication with Senator Schumer's office about this subject. It was from those conversations I learned about the requirement imposed on railroads to inspect their bridges annually. I've always been concerned about the railroad bridge at the intersection of North Main Street and Washington Road. As a result, we were able to get regular inspection of the bridge by CSX. Recently we filed the annual request for another inspection.

The recent disaster in Ohio reminds us of the importance of this issue. At last week's Town Board meeting I outlined Pittsford's emergency response preparations and plans in the event of a rail accident.

Our preparations include a Railroad Emergency Plan in conjunction with the County Office of Emergency Management, a Significant Events Field Operations Guide, and checklists for emergency responders tailored to specific types of emergencies and hazards. Our plans are structured to first gain and maintain situational awareness. Then to support immediate life safety initiatives, to stabilize the situation, to support human needs such as food and child care, and finally to conserve property.

These plans are reviewed and updated quarterly by Pittsford's Emergency Team. This team consists of the Town's Fire Marshall, the Captain of Sheriff's Department Zone A, representatives of all fire departments that serve Pittsford, representatives of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management, the County Department of Public Safety, the Town Supervisor and Chief of Staff.

In addition the Town keeps current at all times the binder containing all legal forms for the Supervisor to declare a state of emergency, to bring in state and federal

emergency services and all forms of resolutions that the Town Board would need to adopt in a special meeting called to respond to such an emergency.

I consulted again with the County Office of Emergency Management to obtain data about the Ohio train accident and to get a sense of how frequently toxic materials passes through Pittsford by train. That office receives an annual report from CSX – after the fact – that reports how often that happens. Unsurprisingly, it is deemed by federal law to be confidential.

In recent days Senator Schumer’s office has been quite helpful when I reached out to let me know of federal efforts for improved rail safety. Last night I advised the Town Board of pending federal legislation that would require shippers and rail carriers to provide advance notice to each state’s emergency response commissioner.

Frankly, that’s not good enough. In addition to prior notice to State officials, the new federal law should require such notice to County and Town officials as well.

I recommended that the Town Board write to our Senators and Congressman to support the legislation *and to change it* to require prior notice to County and Town officials as well as State officials, and to write to our representatives in the State Legislature asking them to support review of all aspects of State preparations for a toxic catastrophe. We will do so.

And although we have a sober view of the likely response, we’re writing again to CSX Transportation to ask them to give us prior notice of hazardous shipments.

Come what may, be assured that Pittsford is properly prepared to protect our residents in the event of such an emergency.

TOWN’S BUILDING PURCHASE TO SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

The Town has accomplished its long-sought goal to house the Town Court in a Town building. This will save taxpayers \$113,000 per year in what we pay to rent the current Town court facility. The Town has rented this space since 2005.



We’ve now purchased the building at 57 Monroe Avenue for use as our Town Court. Forgoing annual rent payments means the Town will recoup the \$1.25 million purchase price for the building in 11 years.

State law requires every Town to maintain a municipal court. This purchase gives us the most cost-effective means to fulfill that duty.

The new building will provide us with much-needed additional community meeting space as well, for meetings and events of community groups and for Town events and programs. We’ve seen the demand for such space grow every year. Happily, we’ve found the right building to serve this purpose as well as to house our court.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR PLANNING BOARD | APPLICATIONS DUE 3/22

The Town of Pittsford currently has a student



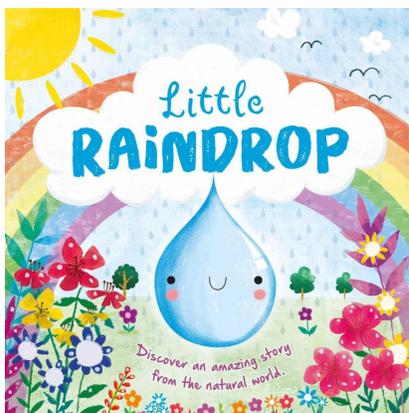
volunteer opening on its Planning Board. This is a great opportunity to learn about the municipal board process and see firsthand the input and issues that affect how decisions are made in local government. This board is a legally constituted board responsible for the review and approval or denial of development applications in the Town, which primarily relate to new homes (Subdivision Approval) or are related to construction or expansion of business (Site Plan

Approval). It meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the lower level of Town Hall. Applicants should be a high school junior or senior. **Those interested should submit a letter of interest by March 22** to: Supervisor William A. Smith, Town of Pittsford, 11 S. Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 or email bsmith@townofpittsford.org. For more information, contact sbernard@townofpittsford.org.

"SPRING AHEAD" THIS SUNDAY - TURN CLOCKS FORWARD & CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 12 at 2:00am – time to "spring ahead" and set your clock forward one hour, although you may want to do this just before you go to bed on Saturday night!

While it means we will have one hour of sleep less this Sunday, the good news is the sun will set an hour later, ushering in the longer daylight hours of the season. More good news: the start of Daylight Saving Time can help keep you safe and healthy - it is when fire and safety folks remind us to change the batteries in our smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are in working order.



"LITTLE RAINDROP" STORY STROLL BEGINS MONDAY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Families can take a story stroll through "*Little Raindrop*" – this Monday, March 13 through Sunday, March 19 at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center on the second floor. Wonderfully illustrated, this story follows a drop of water on an extraordinary journey from the sky, through the earth, and back again. This beautiful tale will delight every curious child who has ever asked, "Where does rain come from?"

Once you have completed your Story Stroll, stop at the Community Center front desk and pick up a **themed craft pack to take home!** Craft packs are available Monday through Saturday from 8:00am – 5:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am – 5:00pm. The Spiegel Pittsford Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue.

LUNCH CLUB 60 SENIORS LUNCH WITH JOHN DADY – RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY, 3/8

To celebrate the approach of St. Patrick's Day, John Dady will perform his Irish-inspired music at the Wednesday, March 15 Seniors Lunch Club 60 lunch at noon at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center. **Advance reservation**

is required by today – Wednesday, March 8.

Lunch is provided by the Monroe County Office of the Aging and includes beef stew served over biscuit, tossed salad with French dressing, green beans and fruit cocktail. The suggested donation for lunch is \$3.50. To register call the Town's Senior Programs Office today at 248-6235.

The Lunch Club 60 program also provides nutrition screenings, assessment, education and counseling to help participants meet their health and nutrition needs.



The Town's Spiegel Pittsford Community Center is located at 35 Lincoln Avenue. To learn more about our programs, activities and services for seniors click the link to visit the [Seniors page on the Town website](#), read our [Seniors program info brochure online](#), or call our Senior Programs Office at 248-6235.



LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE MARCH 16 - 18

The Friends of Pittsford Library Spring Book Sale is Thursday through Saturday, March 16 – 18 in the Pittsford Community Library's Fisher Meeting Room. It will feature an array of gently used books for all ages (including hardcover and paperbacks), plus games, DVDs, and CDs – all at great prices! Hours are Thursday, 3/16 from 4:00 – 8:00pm, Friday, 3/17 from 10:00am – 5:00pm, and Saturday, 3/18 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. **The sale is open to all!** Tables will be replenished throughout the sale so everyone has a chance to find

some wonderful buys. Credit cards will be accepted. **Bags will be in short supply so please bring your own.** All proceeds benefit our Pittsford Community Library!

PITTSFORD VILLAGE TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FORUM IS WEDNESDAY, 3/15

The Pittsford Chamber of Commerce will host a Pittsford Village Trustee Candidate Forum on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00pm at the Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Avenue. Jared Cook, Lisa Cove and David Marshall are running for two open Village Board of Trustee seats. All three have been invited to participate in the Forum. Village trustee is a four-year term.



At the forum, candidates will discuss Village issues and respond to questions submitted in advance from Chamber members and Village residents. The forum will be moderated by Liz Konar, former Principal of Pittsford Sutherland High School. The forum is free but advance registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.pittsfordchamber.org/events/village-trustee-candidate-forum.

The election for Village Trustee will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from noon to 9:00pm at Pittsford Village Hall, 21 N. Main Street.

**LIBRARY PROGRAM WITH AUTHOR SUSAN ORLEAN
AND NEWS ANCHOR ADAM CHODAK – 4/24**



The Pittsford Community Library will present "Susan Orlean in Conversation with Adam Chodak" Monday, April 24 at 7:00pm at the Pittsford Sutherland High School auditorium. Susan Orlean, New York Times bestselling author, will be joined by WROC-TV Emmy Award-winning evening News 8 anchor and managing editor Adam Chodak to discuss her work, including *On Animals* and *The Library Book*. The program is free, but registration is required.

Susan Orlean has been called “a national treasure” by The Washington Post and “a latter-day Tocqueville” by The New York Times. Her deeply moving explorations of American stories, both familiar and obscure, have earned her a reputation as one of America’s most distinctive journalistic voices. The conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A and book signing. This event is sponsored by a grant from Senator Samra Brouk and by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. A limited number of books will be available free of charge at the signing, compliments of the Friends of the Pittsford Community Library.

To attend, [register online via the Library Program Calendar](#) or visit www.townofpittsford.org/library and use the Library Program Registration link. The Pittsford Community Library is located at 24 State Street.

REMINDERS



SPRING RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Our Pittsford Recreation team has some great programs planned for this spring! Registration for **spring programs** is underway for residents. Registration for all others begins March 13. View the spring brochure online here <https://bit.ly/pittsford-rec-brochure> for a complete listing of programs for all ages. [Register for programs online](#) or in person at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD FOREST FREE TREE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS K – 12

Register by March 9

The Pittsford Community Library is participating in the annual Neighborhood Forest free tree program. Parents can register children in grades K – 12 to receive a free tree seedling to plant at home. Seedlings will be available for pickup at the Pittsford Community Library beginning Friday, April 21 – just in time for Earth Day, which is April 22. Participants will receive planting instructions and species information about their tree. Find more information and [register online here](#) or visit the Library’s online program calendar.



TOWN BOARD MEETINGS ARE STREAMING LIVE

Pittsford Town Board meetings are being streamed live; the feed is accessible on any device. Town Board is typically held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at Town Hall. See www.townofpittsford.org/calendar for meeting dates. To

view the livestream, click the [Town Board Meeting live streaming link](#) when the meeting begins. This link can also be found on page two of the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda is posted on the Town's [minutes and agendas page](#) at least two days prior to the meeting. Please note: if you try to log in too early (before the meeting feed is live) you will see an error message; refresh your screen just prior to or at 6:00pm when the board meeting starts and you will be able to view the meeting. As always, ASL interpretation is provided for every Town Board meeting.

ASL INTERPRETER ALWAYS AVAILABLE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Town of Pittsford has an American Sign Language interpreter available at every Pittsford Town Board meeting, to interpret for those who need this service. Those who can't attend a Town Board meeting in person but are planning to watch the meeting's live stream can confirm their need for the interpreter by emailing comments@townofpittsford.org. Requests can be made in advance or can be emailed through the first ten minutes of the meeting. An on-demand Town Board meeting video with closed captioning will be available within 48 hours of the meeting; visit www.townofpittsford.org/channel12 and use the On-Demand links to view previously recorded meetings.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN PITTSFORD

- **"Little Raindrop" Story Stroll**, 3/13 - 19, Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, second floor, 35 Lincoln Avenue; stop by the Community Center front desk after completing the walk to pick up a themed craft pack to take home; free and open to the public.
- **Pittsford Village Trustee Candidate Forum** hosted by Pittsford Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, 3/15, 7:00pm, Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Avenue; free but advance registration is required. For information and to register visit www.pittsfordchamber.org/events/village-trustee-candidate-forum.
- **Friends of Pittsford Library Spring Book Sale**, Thursday, 3/16 from 4:00 - 8:00pm, Friday, 3/17 from 10:00am - 5:00pm, and Saturday, 3/18 from 10:00am - 4:00pm, Pittsford Community Library, Fisher Meeting Room, 24 State Street; sale is open to all, funds raised to support programs and materials for the Library. Items will be replenished throughout the sale; bags will be in short supply - please bring your own.
- **Town of Pittsford Zoning Code Update** - **comments made by Town of Pittsford stakeholders via email and mail being accepted**; access the Comprehensive Plan, the Active Transportation Plan, the project timeline, a link to the Town's current Zoning Code, and other informational materials, on the **Zoning Code Update website** at www.townofpittsford.org/zoningupdate. Comments can be made to zoningupdate@townofpittsford.org or mailed to Doug DeRue, Town of Pittsford, 11 South Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534; please indicate whether you are a Town or Village resident.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD BOARD MEETINGS

- **Pittsford Community Library Board**, Wednesday, 3/8, 6:00pm, Fisher Meeting Room, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street, current CDC guidelines will be followed; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: www.townofpittsford.org/minutes
- **Design Review & Historic Preservation Board**, Thursday, 3/9, 6:00pm, Public Meeting Room, Town Hall (lower level), 11 South Main Street, current CDC guidelines will be followed; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: www.townofpittsford.org/minutes
- **Parks and Recreation Board**, Thursday, 3/9, 6:30pm, Spiegel Pittsford Community Center - Room 206, 35 Lincoln Avenue, current CDC guidelines will

be following; the meeting agenda is posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the Town website here: www.townofpittsford.org/minutes

- **Planning Board**, Monday, 3/13, 6:30pm, Town Hall, Public Meeting Room (lower level), 11 South Main Street, current CDC guidelines will be followed; the meeting agenda is posted at least two days prior to the meeting on the Town website here: www.townofpittsford.org/minutes

COMMUNITY MEETINGS CALENDAR

- [Board of Education](#) Budget Work Session (6:00pm) and meeting (7:00pm), Tuesday, 3/14, Barker Road Middle School McCluski Board Room, 75 Barker Road
- [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; click this link for [membership information](#) or visit the [Rayson-Miller Post website](#)
- [Pittsford Rotary Club](#), Wednesdays (weekly), 7:00am, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street, masks are required; meetings also can be accessed live via Zoom - check the Pittsford Rotary Facebook page for virtual meeting details
- [Women's Club of Pittsford](#) - charitable organization serving the community through service projects and civic improvement; membership is open to any woman living in Pittsford or the surrounding areas. Meetings held the third Thursday of the month, September through June; due to the COVID-19 pandemic, decisions to hold meetings in person or virtually are made month to month. Visit the website at <https://www.womensclubofpittsford.org> for more information
- [Pittsford Art Group](#) conducts monthly member meetings (in person and online) featuring a guest artist; new members are welcome! The PAG also hosts juried and non-juried shows and displays artwork at various locations throughout Pittsford. For further information or to become a member, please visit www.pittsfordartgroup.com and fill out a [Contact Us](#) form.

COVID-19 Coronavirus Information Links

Further Town of Pittsford COVID-19 coronavirus information and updates can be found at www.townofpittsford.org/covid-19info.

[Pittsford Central School District COVID-19 Coronavirus Updates](#).

You can find information on COVID-19 coronavirus at the County Health Department's website: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/health>.

Additional information about COVID-19 testing and health requirements throughout Monroe County can be found on the County's Website: www.monroecounty.gov

The CDC also has information on its website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

In addition, the CDC has information relevant to anyone planning to travel outside of the United States: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM20785.

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