

From the Supervisor

Pittsford Needs YOU!

When Town government does the job it should, you don't have to think about it. This derives, I think, from why we have municipal government in the first place. Certain necessities or conveniences need to be or should be in place. Think of sewers, roads, leaf collection, parks and trails, just for starters. All impractical or inconvenient or too costly for any one of us to do on our own. So we organize a municipal government to take on these tasks on behalf of all of us collectively and for the benefit of all.

My goal at Pittsford Town Hall and that of our staff is to get things right, so you can get on with your life. So you don't have to worry about municipal services. You know they're in place and working. You don't need to think much about it unless there's a problem requiring our attention.

Along these lines I've often considered one aspect of my role in Town government and the Town Board's as equivalent in a way to someone you hire to mow your lawn. You have a lawn. Maybe you don't have time or equipment to cut it yourself, so you hire a guy to do it. You don't care about specifics of the equipment, or precisely how high the blade is set or other details, although he's happy to tell you. You care about the cost. Beyond that you just care about the result: the grass gets cut so you can get on with your life without having to think about the lawn.

Now imagine you come home one day and the lawn's been paved over. Concrete where once there was grass. "You hired me to look after the lawn," says the lawnmower guy, "so I did." Not very wise of him, since he's put himself out of business and doomed himself in your eyes. Yet there it is. Not having to worry about an inconvenient chore has been transformed into a massive problem. You might've kept a closer watch on the lawnmower guy after all.

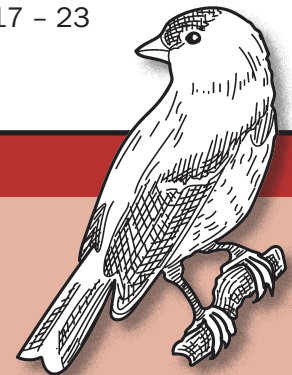
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Bill Smith
Town Supervisor

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Enjoy Bird Harbor in Great Embankment Park During Pollinator Week!

Our Bird Harbor at Great Embankment Park provides a healthy and welcoming place for birds and pollinators! We've got great new tips and info to unveil at Bird Harbor and some fun activities planned for Pollinator Week, June 17 - 23.

Pollinator Celebration

Saturday, June 22, 10:00am at
Great Embankment Park's Bird Harbor
Ribbon cutting, pollinator tips, face painting
& free seedlings

Community Center Gardens Free Tour

Sunday, June 23, 9:30am at
Spiegel Pittsford Community Center
Registration required, opens June 3rd
Register online or at Community Center

We'll be celebrating pollinators the whole week, so be sure to check the Town eNews, website and Facebook page for updates!

From the Supervisor

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In addition to providing services, Town government has broad authority in many respects. How we exercise it can materially affect your home, your neighborhood, the value of your property and your quality of life. Right now the Town Board is engaged in updating our Zoning Code. This is necessary from time to time, as practical experience informs our judgment about potential improvement of processes or newly emerging issues that may require our attention.

Most significantly, an update is necessary to bring the Zoning Code into line with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Board can't change the law because of its own whims or the personal preferences of any of its members. Changes must derive from requirements or clear recommendations embodied in the Comprehensive Plan.

In 2019 the Town adopted a new Comprehensive Plan. Its adoption culminated five years of extensive public engagement and public input as to what kind of Town we want to live in. What kind of Town we want it to be. In addition to significant public workshops, the Town also employed a technique often used by municipalities preparing a Comprehensive Plan: an extensive and detailed community survey. You told us what you want and what you didn't want. Based on your advice, the Comprehensive Plan took shape.

First on the list of the fundamental goals stated in the Comprehensive Plan is *"Community Character: to maintain and enhance Pittsford's physical character and quality of life, by managing future growth and development and protecting existing resources..."*

To keep faith with this and the other provisions of the Comprehensive Plan in updating the Zoning Code, we still need to hear from the public. A Zoning Code is much more detailed than the Comprehensive Plan on which it's based.

As the Town Board sorts through these details and makes choices, continued engagement with our residents is essential.

Neither you nor we can undo the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan, or change it or revise the Zoning Code, based on any of our own personal preferences or those of any individual resident. Our goal – our duty – in revising the Zoning Code is to do so consistent with the broad consensus of our community.

That's what the Town Board has done as we've gone through the Code. I have every confidence in our Town Board continuing to do just that. The indispensable element to doing it and doing it right is continued engagement with you, our residents. We don't want to pave over the lawn inadvertently. We need you to attend the Zoning Update meetings or to submit your comments by email. You'll find information on upcoming meetings on the Town's website at: www.townofpittsford.org/calendar.

Working with our consultants, the Board is going through the code in public session, section by section. As of this writing, so far we've considered and have informally agreed on how we'll move forward with commercial, industrial and office zoning, the Monroe Avenue corridor, the fundamental components of residential zoning that could affect neighborhood character (which is what most residents are concerned about), commercial signage, parking and lighting regulations.

I say "informally" agreed because the updated code will not be made final until the Town Board votes on the entire package, as a local law to amend the code, following a formal public hearing. We're not amending the code bit-by-bit as we go through it. We're deciding, provisionally,

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Take Home a Paddle and Pour Poster

Local award-winning artist and RIT adjunct faculty member Chris Lyons has been creating our Paddle and Pour posters since the festival's first year in 2015. His 2024 design takes a whimsical approach! Posters will be available for sale at the festival on May 25 and at Town Hall after the event. A limited number of past years' posters also will be available for sale. Posters are \$10; \$15 for a signed poster.



A Summer Full of Great Events!



Paddle and Pour Art & Music Festival

Saturday, May 25, noon – 10:00pm

North Main Street Bridge

Live music, regional craft beer and wine, art and artisan items, family activities, a variety of food items, annual Pittsford Regatta competition.

Featuring performances by Peter Pitts and Friends, Tobey Village House Band, Acoustic Brew, Hey Mabel, and headliners Uptown Groove.



Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony

Monday, May 27, 10:00am

Parade along Main Street

Ceremony to follow at Pittsford Cemetery



Summer Concerts Along the Canal

Friday Nights June 7 – August 23, 6:00pm

Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford

Featuring:

- Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland Jazz Ensembles
- Prime Time Funk • Miller and the Other Sinners
- John Dady Band • The Earthtones • Bill Tiberio Band
- The Downtown Men – Billy Joel Tribute
- Son Henry • Todd East and Casino Royale
- Pittsford Fire Department Band • Mambo Kings



Concerts for Kids

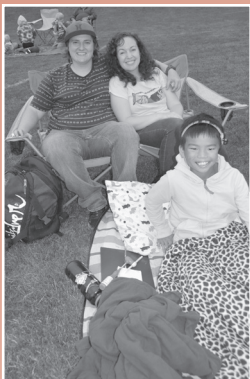
Wednesday Nights, 6:30pm

Spiegel Pittsford Community Center Pavilion

July 17: Mistergreene

July 31: Mr. Loops

August 16: The Happy Pirates



Family Outdoor Movie Nights

Thursday Nights at dark

Sutherland High School Fields

All movies rated PG

July 11: The Super Mario Bros. Movie

July 25: Elemental

August 8: Migration

August 22: Wonka

Find complete event details at www.townofpittsford.org/events

Yard Debris Collection Under Way

Our Town crews are collecting both bagged and containerized yard debris and loose brush and branches from your neighborhood every week. Find complete details and our Yard Debris Pickup Schedule map online at www.townofpittsford.org/yard-debris, or check your Yard Debris & Leaf Collection info card mailed earlier this season. And find tips below for helping pollinators as you clean your yard.



Join Pittsford's Pollinator Pathway

Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and many beneficial insects are essential to ensuring our plants – and our food sources! – flourish. You can help give our native pollinators the food and shelter they need to thrive by joining our Pittsford Pollinator Pathway. We'll provide habitat tips and a list of trees, shrubs and perennial plants that can help you establish part of a pollinator pathway in your own yard! Use the QR code or find details at www.townofpittsford.org/pollinator-pathway.

Keep Pollinators in Mind During Spring Yard Cleanup

As you begin spring cleanup, please think about our pollinator friends! **Many pollinators hibernate in the same piles of dead leaves and hollow stems we want to clear out.** Pollinators need to continue their long winter's rest to do their important work this spring and summer. To help our pollinator friends, consider **delaying the removal of dead leaves and plants until evening temperatures remain reliably in the 50s or above.** If you must get a jump on tidying your lawn, consider gently moving leaf piles to one corner of the yard or leaving just the piles that have collected around trees, fences and your garden until the weather is consistently warmer.

When cleaning up, keep an eye out for nesting bees, chrysalises and cocoons. If you pick out old stems that have pollinators nesting within, move them to a safe spot in your garden so they can finish hibernating and emerge ready to do their hard work. To really help pollinators, consider being part of the Pittsford Pollinator Pathway and take our Toxic-Free Lawn Challenge!



Your Lawn Can Be Toxic-Free and Look Great

Lawn care season is under way – are you interested in having a healthy lawn and supporting a healthier environment? You can, by participating in our Toxic-Free Lawn Challenge! It's a simple way to limit or eliminate chemical treatments in favor of organic lawn care.

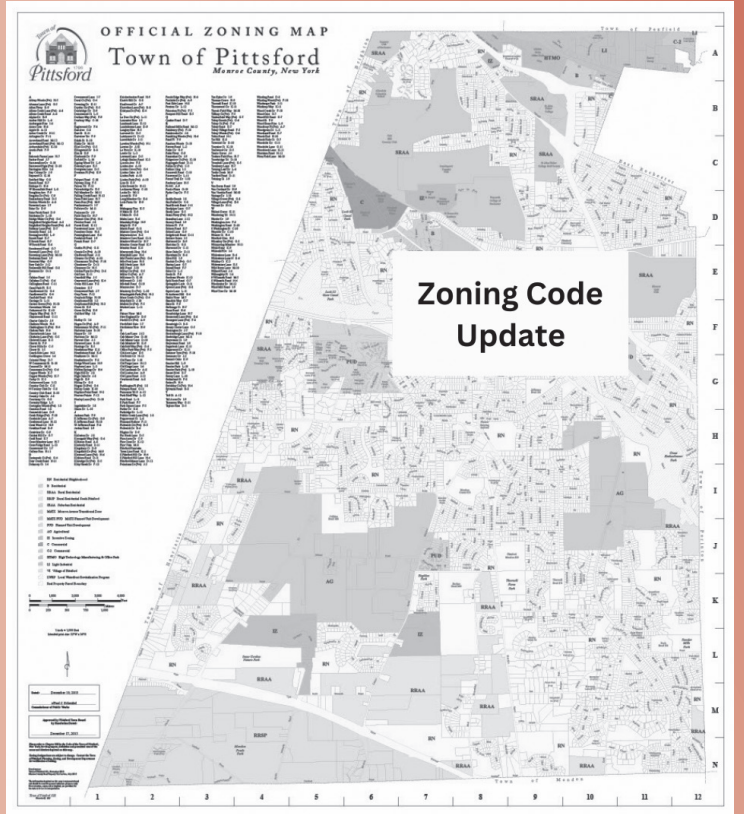
Whether you go completely organic or seek to minimize use of synthetic chemicals on your lawn, the Town's Toxic-Free Challenge offers tips that can help you cultivate a healthy lawn in a way that's good for birds, pollinators and other beneficial insects as well. Find information at www.townofpittsford.org/toxicfree.

If you decide to go toxic-free, please pick up 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.

Zoning Code Update Meetings – Attend Online or in Person

The Pittsford Town Board continues its public meetings to consider updates to the Town's Zoning Code. The purpose of this process is to bring the Code into line with directives and recommendations in the Town's most recent Comprehensive Plan. We will include upcoming meeting dates in the Town's weekly eNews and on the Town's online calendar at www.townofpittsford.org/calendar. You can attend these meetings, watch them online and view archived recordings.

Public participation is essential to assuring an outcome consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and in tune with the broad consensus of our community as expressed in that Plan. You can comment in person at each meeting, submit in advance by email or regular mail or submit email comments during the meeting. Meetings are streamed live and recorded; recordings are on the Town website. Comment submission and viewing information can be found on each meeting's calendar listing. Find full information about our Zoning Code Update at www.townofpittsford.org/zoningupdate.



From the Supervisor

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what will be in the complete package we'll consider for adoption. We'll make sure to provide adequate public notice of the hearing or hearings. These hearings will be especially important. Your presence will help me and the Board to stay in accord with what most of our residents want and expect.

At our next zoning update meeting, on Thursday, May 30 at 6:00PM at Town Hall, the Board will consider the Supplemental Regulations for residential areas. These include such things as sheds, outdoor storage, fences and hedges, swimming pools, antennnas and ponds. You'll find the full list on our website.

I realize that much of the Zoning Code involves relatively arcane matters. Yet much, especially residential provisions, if changed substantially in ways incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan, could steer Pittsford and its quality of life away not just from what the Plan contemplates but from what you, our residents, compellingly and unambiguously have asked for and expect.

Since I took on the duties of Town Supervisor, there's one comment I've heard more frequently and consistently, from residents of all backgrounds and all walks of life, than any other: "Don't change Pittsford." Now of course, we're changing Pittsford all the time. My central commitment as Town Supervisor is to seek continual improvement for our residents. Adding sidewalks,

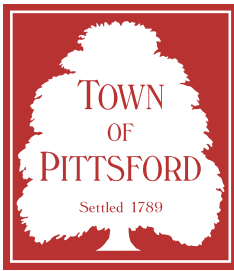
improving our trails, opening a dog park, creating a nature preserve, adopting environmentally aware policies and practices, improving Town processes and so much more. But these fall into the category of "enhancing Pittsford's physical character and quality of life," as expressed in our Comprehensive Plan. Things like these aren't what you're talking about when you tell us not to change.

You're talking about that unique collection of attributes and characteristics that makes the place recognizable as the Pittsford we know as our home.

It may have been expressed best by a resident who commented on the Zoning Code update at one of our meetings, who reminded us that we live in a successful community whose character, schools, quality of life and way of life are widely admired; a place where people aspire to live, concluding: "Pittsford's not broken. You don't need to 'fix' it."

I'm just one of the overwhelming majority of Pittsford residents who feel the same way.

Please let me hear from you! You can reach me at 248-6220 or by email at wsmith@townofpittsford.org. I maintain an open-door policy at my office and you can attend my monthly open house at the Library, usually the first Saturday of each month. The open house is announced on my Bill Smith Pittsford Town Supervisor Facebook page and in the Town E-news.



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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 2024

www.townofpittsford.org



Explore Our Trails and Bring Your Passport

Whether you're looking for interesting destinations, quiet seclusion, an invigorating hike or just an enjoyable way of getting some fresh air and exercise, explore our Town trails! And before you head out, be sure to bring along your Wegmans Hit the Trail Passport.

Our Trail Passport program includes eight Pittsford trails of various lengths and degrees of difficulty. Hike or cycle six of the designated trails, mark your passport and receive a Wegmans reusable shopping bag. Complete all eight trails and you're eligible to win a \$250 Wegmans gift card! Pick up your Passport at the Spiegel Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue. Program information and passports also are available at the Wegmans Pittsford store at 3195 Monroe Avenue. Find complete information about Town parks and trails (including trail maps) at www.townofpittsford.org/parks-and-trails.



Monroe County NY 9 1 1

Sign Up to Get Emergency Alerts

Pittsford residents can sign up to receive local emergency alerts through Monroe County's Hyper-Reach Emergency Notification service. Signing up allows your cell phone, email and/or TDD to be notified for local emergencies and community alerts as well. The program uses your address to provide alerts targeted to your specific geographic area. Sign up is simple and free. Use the QR code or go online to bit.ly/hyper-reach-signup.

