

Monroe County Post – Pittsford edition – submitted for **June 14, 2018 issue**

“From the Supervisor” column

Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Services for Seniors: A Pittsford Tradition

The Town of Pittsford has had a long-standing commitment to quality of life for our senior citizens. That commitment begins with providing a support network for those seniors who desire fully independent living. One of the ways we accomplish that mission is through Pittsford Senior Citizens. The group is a non-profit organization, representing approximately 1,200 individuals ages 50 years and over, living in the Town of Pittsford. Together, we are providing opportunities for seniors that support independent living, enhance health and well-being, educate and contribute to their feelings of self-worth and community belonging.

2018 marks the 60th Anniversary of Pittsford Senior Citizens. We'll mark the occasion with a celebration at the Burgundy Basin Inn on Tuesday, June 12th. Pittsford Senior Citizens continues to thrive. Together, we are creating new programs that enhance senior engagement in the community. Current programs feature notable speakers, nutritious lunch programs, AARP Smart Driver classes, local day trips to exciting locations and events, wellness programs, craft clubs, square dancing, Zumba and more. We owe a debt of gratitude to Grace Rylott who was the Town's Recreation Commissioner in 1958 and facilitated the formation of Pittsford Senior Citizens. Then in 2004, the Town formally partnered with the group to expand current programs and foster new initiatives at the VanHuysen Senior Center on Monroe Avenue.

This year also marks a new chapter in the history of Pittsford Senior Citizens, with the move from the current senior center on Monroe Avenue to the newly renovated Spiegel Community Center. This new space will provide an improved venue for our senior activities and programs, safer and more adaptable for additional programs in future. Renovations include a new dining room with a fully equipped kitchen and a new gymnasium for health and wellness programs.

Accessibility was a concern at the last location, but that is no longer. The new Senior Center will be located in the part of the building closest to the new ground-level lobby. A half-level up, it will be accessible by a new, large capacity elevator and a short set of stairs. This alone represents a substantial improvement over the current Senior Center.

As Town Supervisor, I'm committed to supporting housing choices for senior citizens, whether in assisted living or for those who wish to live independently. Our fellow Pittsford residents who have lived and raised their families deserve no less.

Our Comprehensive Plan update, now in progress, has included particular attention to encouraging small-lot development and cluster development as techniques to encourage projects, in those areas where some additional development inevitably will occur, attractive to those who are ready to downsize, to single-story homes, other easier-to-manage homes, and less maintenance. As I write this, our Town Building Department is processing two separate proposed projects for new construction of particular interest to seniors – one for substantially increased assisted living housing, the other of smaller residences, townhouses and apartments, for independent living.

We celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Pittsford Senior Citizens organization. We celebrate the Town's long-standing partnership with it, as we anticipate the continuing success of our collaboration.

If you have any comments or suggestions about our senior citizen programming or want to get involved yourself, please don't hesitate to contact me. As always, you may reach me directly by phone at 248-6220 or by email at bsmith@townofpittsford.org.