



Village of Pittsford Newsletter

Fall 2013

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IT'S ALWAYS A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON THE CANAL

Remembering John Osborn

One of the privileges I have enjoyed as mayor is serving our community with outstanding volunteers, employees, and consultants. One such person was longtime Village Attorney John Osborn. John, who passed away earlier this year, was recently honored for his many years of outstanding professional service at the 2013 Monroe County Bar Association Memorial Ceremony.

John grew up in an enormous Victorian house at the foot of East Hill in Ithaca and attended Dartmouth College. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the United States Army and served for 3 1/2 years during World War II. Following his service



Village attorney Jeff Turner, Janice Osborn, and Jennifer Osborn at the 2013 Monroe County Bar Association Annual Memorial Ceremony

as a Lieutenant in the Infantry in Germany, John completed his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth and then went on to finish law school at Cornell University.

He began the practice of law in Rochester in 1950 at Reilly, Dicker, McLouth and Lines and eventually became a name partner of the firm. In 1956, John began to represent the Village of Pittsford and continued his service until his retirement in 2010. During his tenure, John wrote a new Village Code and

guided the Village through a series of challenging episodes. Despite the dramatic changes that occurred, John remained on point with sound legal advice. He was notorious for his stories and wit and used these skills effectively to diffuse many potentially volatile situations. John was completely dedicated to the Village and continued to



**Village Mayor
Bob Corby**

Questions?
Contact Mayor Corby by phone at 750-0739 or email at PittsfordVillage@frontiernet.net

attend Village Board Meetings even as his physical health faltered. So much of my own knowledge of law and the municipal process is a result of the active tutoring I received from him.

John was truly a legend who is sadly missed. Although he has passed away, his spirit lives on in the Osborn Meeting Room at Village Hall as a new generation grapples with a new set of issues facing our village. John would be proud that his law firm, after 58 years, still represents our village under the strong counsel of his associate, Jeff Turner.

Garden Gateway

Paula Sherwood's green vision comes to life

On October 24, Mayor Corby, Village Trustees, and the Department of Public Works gathered to celebrate the newly planted Sherwood's Garden on the median under the North Main Street train trestle at Washington Road.

The garden honors Sherwood's dedication to improving Village public space through landscaping and plant life. During her 20 years on the Village Board, "She just did not give upon this," says Village Mayor Rob Corby. "When people wanted to cut the budget, Paula stuck with her ideas. It has really transformed the Village."

SHERWOOD'S PERSEVERANCE

During the 1960s a Village and Town comprehensive plan saw traffic as a real problem. A bypass was proposed which would have taken Washington Road and turned it into a "highway that would have permanently changed the character of the Village," says Mayor Corby. In fact, from the 1970s until 1995 North Main Street was four lanes wide. The Village Board did another traffic calming study in 2004.

Throughout these discussions, Sherwood continued to press for more landscaping on the Village streets to beautify the neighborhood and to act as a traffic calming measure. During her tenure the Village was

much improved with the Main Street planting urns and the hanging baskets throughout the Village.

Sherwood designed the new space with the help of Bristol's Garden Center. The small garden ties in with the larger garden on the corner of Washington Road and Main Street, which was done by the Allyn's Creek Garden Club.

Before the project, the medians were narrower, higher and unsightly at this juncture. "There were guardrails, which gave the street the appearance of an expressway entrance ramp," Corby says. "Now the gardens make a gateway to the Village and a centerpiece for the North Village neighborhood."

The garden surrounds the stone trestle abutments, which were built from local dolomite rocks that are now about 660 years old. "If you look closely you'll see fossils," Corby says. Filled with *Rosa rugosa*, daylilies, perennial geraniums, ornamental grasses and London Plane trees, the space will "look nice all year long," says Sherwood, who adds that she is "thrilled and honored" for the recognition.



Paula Sherwood, second from right, with Village staff and trustees and the Department of Public Works



From Village Hall:

Please tell your Village friends and neighbors about this newsletter and ask them to send us their email address so they can receive it. Contact PittsfordVillage@frontiernet.net.

Take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions on this page of our [Pittsford](#) Village web site

Upcoming meetings:

Village Board:

Tuesday, November 26;

Tuesday December 10

APRB:

Monday, December 2 (application deadline, Nov. 19)

Planning & Zoning:

December 16 (application deadline, Nov. 27)



From the Building Inspector

What's Permitted?

There are many activities that require a resident of the Village to obtain a building permit. These include large projects such as additions, new garages, work approved by the Architectural Preservation and Review Board, fences, swimming pools, hot tubs and more. There are also projects within your home that might not require any official Village Board approvals yet still require the issuance of a building permit. The most common of these are alterations to plumbing and electrical systems.

Connection Check

If you change a sink, add a dishwasher or garbage disposal, replace your tub, etc. a building permit is issued so that an inspection can take place to make sure that the work is properly attached to the drainage system and that a vent is present and utilized. If improperly installed there is a real chance that sewer gas (methane) can enter your home. This is a serious situation and potentially dangerous or fatal.

The addition of new electrical wiring can trigger the need for an inspection by an independent electrical inspector who verifies that the electrical contractor has installed the wiring according to the requirements of the National Electrical Code. Improper wiring or grounding also poses a risk to occupants and can cause fires.

No Permit Needed

There are several activities where the Village does not require a building permit; the two most common are driveway and roof replacements. As long as you are not changing materials (for example, cedar roofing to asphalt shingles or asphalt to a metal roof) you do not need a permit. If you are simply replacing your existing driveway, and not making it bigger in any way, you also do not need a permit for the work.

In these instances, it is imperative that you verify that your contractor has valid liability and workers compensation insurance so that you are protected in the case of an accident or property damage.

Regardless of the size or type of project you are contemplating, please call the Village Office (585-4332) and we can discuss what you might need. –*John Limbeck, building inspector*

Save the date –

Candlelight Night

Tuesday, December 3 from 4-9 PM in the Village of Pittsford. Help support local businesses



Canal Construction



The Canal Corporation's work on the canal will include tree removal, paving and resurfacing in one of the most heavily used canal pathways.

According to [NYS Canals](http://www.nyscanals.com) website, from Oct. 25 to Dec. 20, 2013 trail work will take place from Marsh Road to the Cartersville Guard gate. This section of the trail will be closed at times during this period.

Village Business Spotlight

Local Dog Schedule



You may have seen a distinctive, Woody-inspired Honda Element driving around the Village with lots of happy dogs wagging inside. That car belongs to Stephen Hanna, owner of Local Dog Schedule, a dog sitting business.

Hanna, now retired from his job maintaining the grounds at St. John Fisher, grew up in Pittsford and has been caring for dogs for many years. He formalized his mostly referral-based business in 2002.

He has a small group of between 15 and 20 dogs that he walks, feeds, takes to the vet and grooming appointments. He will overnight at a client's home and house sits while he's there. He has several elderly clients, he says, "who are too frail to get out and walk their dogs anymore. I keep the dogs fit and trim."

Monday through Friday Hanna has an afternoon playgroup that he takes for an hour-long walk in the woods. "Some of these dogs have known each other their entire lives," he says. "I have one dog I've had lunch with Monday through Thursday every day for nine years."

Socializing dogs keeps them well-mannered and well-behaved. "They're good companions," Hanna says.

To contact Hanna, email him at actinglikedogs@gmail.com or visit www.PittsfordPetSitter.com