



Village of Pittsford

Quarterly
Newsletter

Winter 2015

volume 3, issue 1

WE'LL WEATHER THE WEATHER WHATEVER THE WEATHER WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT

Around the Village:

Update on 75 Monroe Avenue: In December, the Architectural Preservation and Review Board denied the project's application because the board felt the project's mass, height and scale are incompatible with the historical context of both the Village and the Erie Canal.

Research by APRB members indicated that the project's density is roughly three times greater than the historical model (Schoen Place) that developer Mark IV and the Village had agreed on. Mark IV is challenging the APRB decision and has filed another lawsuit against the Village.

The Planning and Zoning Board has granted site plan approval with conditions and is working with the developer to meet those conditions. That approval has been challenged by the civic group Friends of Pittsford Village and will be reviewed in court.

At the site, the developer has severed a storm sewer pipe. The developer has resisted requests by the PZB and Village Board to repair the pipe, which drains the Village Green Office Park and part of Sutherland High School's campus. The excavation that continues at the site is still part of the remediation, which is not yet complete. The developer will have to submit a report to the Department of Environmental Conservation for review. There will be a public hearing regarding the proposed final remediation process.

New pavilion: As part of the New York State Economic Development Council's recent funding round, the Village was granted \$50,000 to complete a pavilion on the former canal side site of Newcomb Oil's gas pumps. (The building is now Victor Furniture.)

The pavilion, which has already been designed, is the final piece of the Village's recent Erie Canal waterfront revitalization. It will be known as Bicentennial Pavilion, celebrating 200 years of the canal. The design includes a commemorative plaque that will highlight the importance of preservation in Pittsford and will honor some of the people who have played critical roles such as the late Mary Menzie.

Open space initiative: The Economic Council also granted \$177,000 to the Town of Pittsford, which has agreed to partner with the Village to update Pittsford's recreational trails' network. Announced in

December, the grant will be used for trail development on the land behind the pickle factory near the DPW property. Town and Village agree the land—which was formerly slated for residential development--should be mostly natural space with trails



**Village Mayor
Bob Corby**

Questions?

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

connecting to the towpath. There is the possibility of creating a dog park in one area and relocating a historic barn.

National Register District: In 1984 when the Village's National Register District was approved, only part of the Village was included. Subsequent review by the State Historic Preservation Officer indicated that much more of the Village is eligible.

In 2014, the Village received a Certified Local Government grant to finish the documentation to expand the boundaries of the Village's National Register District.

The national designation is honorary and carries no additional restrictions. Enlarging the district won't affect those whose property is listed and there is no additional regulatory burden.

The Village stands out because it is so well preserved. The expanded boundaries consider most of the Village except a few recent modern neighborhoods like Courtenay Circle and the office parks.

The entire Village remains a local preservation district regulated by the APRB. All exterior changes to structures located within the Village boundaries are subject to APRB review.

Grove Street initiative: In December, the Village Board met with residents on the Village's north side to discuss pedestrian safety, traffic calming and nuisance issues in regard to parking in the Grove Street neighborhood. The Board has contracted with [SRF Associates](#)--just as it did with Boughton Avenue--to do a small study to suggest ways to make streets more walkable, to calm traffic speed and to improve the streetscape. There will be another neighborhood meeting with the consultant later this year to get the project underway. The result should be capital improvements.

Weis Parking lot (South Main Street behind Breathe Yoga): Trustee Frank Galusha and I have worked with Larry Weis and his wife, [Breathe](#) owner, Cindy Weis, both of whom own the lot. Along with Town Supervisor Bill Smith, we renegotiated the lease (for five years) to retain the municipal parking area for the South Main Street businesses. The Town plows the lot and maintains the asphalt; the Village maintains the fence and the site features around the lot. The municipal lot is an important community resource that helps everyone.

Safer streets: The Town and Village are moving forward with the [Genesee Transportation Council](#) walkability study.

We want to make streets function better for all users of the roadway and take what's already been done to another level. The Town, which has not yet done a study, wants to develop a network so people outside the Village can walk to it. The Town has a proposed project to install sidewalks on the north end of the village along East Avenue.

Three firms submitted qualifications, which the Town and Village are in the process of reviewing. The study will get underway later this spring and is one of the many collaborative efforts between the Town and Village. It's good for the Town, good for the Village and good for the long-term health of our community.

From Village Hall:



Trustee Election Wed., March 18

The Village has four trustees and a mayor—all of whom serve four-year terms. In March two trustee seats will be up for reelection.

Normally, Village elections in New York State are held the third Tuesday of the month of March. But this year the election will fall on St. Patrick's Day and by law no Village elections can be held on that day.

Until 1998, if the election were to fall on St. Patrick's Day, a Village had the *option* of changing the date. But in 1998 a new law sponsored by two New York City-area politicians mandated the election date *must* be changed. The sponsors reportedly said they wish to honor Irish heritage. (According to Trulia's chief economist [Jed Kolko](#), more than 10% of those in New York State claim Irish heritage.)

Legal Notices on Village Website

Many people don't read the legal notices in the newspaper, but they are interested in the information those notices might contain.

Village Hall has created a solution with a link from the Village website to the Village Code area.

On the Village [website](#), hover over the “documents” tab. Click “[village code](#).” On the left side of the screen under “Popular Links,” click “[legal notices](#).” (In the upper left, the word “index” should be highlighted and not “code.”)

Once there, click “[legislation](#)” on the left of your screen. Voilà!—all the Village Board legal notices you ever wanted.

Watch for further website changes that will include easy access to information such as board meeting packets.

Contact Village clerk [Dorothea Ciccarelli](#) with your ideas for future website updates.

Newsletter Goes Paperless

Village Hall would like as many residents as possible to receive this newsletter. It would also like to save money on paper and postage.

To this end, Village Hall is mailing a hardcopy of this issue to all Village households. All future newsletters will be sent via email and available on the Village website.

Send your email address to Stacey Freed, Stacey.Freed@gmail.com, or Dorothea Ciccarelli, pittsfordvillage@frontiernet.net. If you don't have one, please let us know. We will do our best to print and mail issues to those without an email address.

Sewer bills will be mailed the week of January 18.

Upcoming meetings:

Village Board:

Click [here](#) for meeting minutes
Next meeting: Tuesday January 27, 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 10, 24; March 10, 24; April 14, 18

APRB:

Click [here](#) for meeting minutes
Feb. 2 (Jan. 20 application deadline);
March 2, April 6

Planning & Zoning:

Click [here](#) for meeting minutes
Next meeting: Jan. 20; Feb. 16; March 16; April 20

From the Building Inspector:



The DPW will share information on plowing snow, but I want to remind everyone that there is **no overnight parking anywhere on Village roads from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from November 1st through April 15th**. This restriction is in effect regardless of whether or not there is snow on the ground.

Additionally, parking in a way that blocks the sidewalks is also prohibited. While this is in effect year-round, it is especially important during the winter season since the DPW also plows the sidewalks.

The building housing Rocky Greco's Salon and Breathe Yoga (right) has recently undergone a significant facelift. The old siding was removed and replaced with a smooth HardiePlank® surface. Most of the roof also has been replaced as part of the upgrade.



JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Crazy as it sounds, it's the right time to begin thinking of your spring projects. If you plan on any remodeling, please call the building inspector to determine if you need a review and approval of the Planning/Zoning Board or the Architectural Preservation and Review Board before you apply for your building permit.

GOOD SIGN

The Mayor and Trustees soon will issue a notice to all Village residents, merchants and property owners that will detail exactly the types of signs allowed in the Village. There has been some confusion as to what is allowed and what is prohibited and this notice should make it very clear. It also will make my enforcement of the Code much easier and definitely more consistent.

--John P. Limbeck is Village of Pittsford building inspector and code enforcement official

Spotlight on New Business:

Welcome Home Living

One of State Street's (#21) newest additions is [Welcome Home Living](#), The Electronics Concierge.

A showroom and "experience center," the shop is a "place for people to play" with new home electronics such as automated shades;

lighting and climate controls; home surveillance, security and theater systems; and media rooms, says owner Joseph Ott.



A custom cabinet allows the TV to rise up or hide away out of sight.

Ott and co-owner Patrick Amering have been in the industry for more than a decade and love the 19th century remodeled residence they've chosen for their store. "It's great to show clients how they can incorporate some of the highest technology into their historical homes."

Business Beat:

[Saha Med Grill](#), 14 South Main Street, is now open for business. The [Pittsford Pub](#) is under new ownership and there are plans to remodel. [Via Girasole Gourmet and Wine Shop](#) on Schoen Place has applied for permits to establish a wine bar. [The Kitchen](#), 5 South Main Street, is open for sit-down or take-out *prix-fixe* three-course lunch and chef's table dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings. [Pittsford Barber Shop](#) in the Canal Park Building, just celebrated its one-year anniversary in November in that location. [Imagine Anti-Aging Boutique](#) celebrates six months at 25 State Street.

If you'd like to see a new or an existing Village business highlighted, contact Stacey Freed at Stacey.Freed@gmail.com

Pittsford History:

Hidden Landmark

Almost completely hidden behind century-old trees, about 50 feet from one of the busiest intersections in the community sits a lovely old home that may have been built around 1815, with a deed showing one-time ownership by Glover Perrin, for whom Perinton was named. At one time the property extended southward to the creek near Rand Place and the village line.



Since her birth in the house in 1921, 84 South Main Street has been lovingly maintained by Connie Koegler Wilson.

Connie attended Alfred University then moved to New York City where she created and sold ceramic objects. When WWII began, Connie returned home and found work at Strong Memorial Hospital. While there she met and married Bob Wilson. The young couple returned to 84 South Main to be company for Connie's mother. Bob became chief of health and safety at the U of R.

Connie developed a love of gardening and became knowledgeable about which vegetation thrived in the soil and the southern exposure. There are still plants and trees living and thriving from ones that were planted in the 1930s. A wisteria tree and Deutzia bush still put forth beautiful and fragrant blossoms. The home's interior has been carefully maintained and documented by Connie. The artifacts and decorations have been carefully chosen and each item has its special place in the home. This building is not just a house--it is a historical treasure to the owner, who has acted as a faithful and loving steward all her life.

--Audrey Johnson is Pittsford Village historian. This article was adapted from a recent Historic Pittsford [newsletter](#).