FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENFIELD SUPERVISOR WIEDEMER WILL NOT SEEK FOURTH TERM
-George C. Wiedemer to retire after 25 years of public service-

PENFIELD, N.Y., MARCH 12, 2009 – Penfield Supervisor George Wiedemer has announced he will not be a candidate for a fourth term as Town Supervisor this coming fall. Supervisor Wiedemer has dedicated 25 years to public service. He first represented the town of Penfield as a Monroe County Legislator from 1985 through 2003. Mr. Wiedemer was then elected to three terms as Penfield Town Supervisor beginning in 2004.

"I have loved every part of my career in local government. I've run 10 campaigns, attended countless meetings, and worked with some of the brightest and most dedicated people of our community,” said Supervisor Wiedemer. “Local government provided me with the opportunity to have direct interaction with the residents I represented, and I will miss that the most. Government has been a fulfilling part of my life, but now I want to offer my services to different volunteer groups and turn to the next chapter in my life.”

Throughout Supervisor Wiedemer’s three terms, the Town of Penfield maintained a flat tax rate. He will leave office as he began with a rate of 2.94 per $1,000 of assessed value, one of only seven towns in the county with a rate below $3.00. This was accomplished with conservative budgets, combined resources and reduced spending. Under Wiedemer’s leadership the Town of Penfield maintained solid financials and an Aa3 credit rating from Moody’s, saving taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in funding for capital projects.
Public works achievements include improvements to roadways and public safety. Intersection improvements were made at Atlantic Ave. and Jackson Road, Atlantic Ave. and Baird Road, and Browncroft Blvd, Creek Street and Blossom Road. In the Four Corners, Liberty Street was opened to the back of Dunkin Donuts plaza and federal funds were secured to extend Motts Lane to ease traffic at the Five Mile Line Road and Route 441 intersection. Under Wiedemer’s tenure, the Town has installed at least one mile of new sidewalks each year to help make Penfield a more “walkable” town.

The Sewer Department was moved to the Highway Complex to increase efficiency, and three major sewer projects were completed bringing sanitary sewer connections to thousands of Penfield homes. To date, about 80% of homes in Penfield have sewer connections. The Extension 19 Pump Station is now being renovated to bring it above ground with new technology and increased capacity for the Route 250/441 area it serves.

Wiedemer committed to improving drainage in Penfield, increasing the capacity of the Tree Brook regional pond and installing the new Plank Road regional pond. He worked with farmers and agencies on a solution to clear the Commission Ditch watershed, and increased drainage funding to support ongoing improvement projects.

Supervisor Wiedemer is known for leading one of the most open and transparent town governments in New York State. Public participation is encouraged at the beginning and end of each legislative meeting, Town meetings are broadcast live on television and the Internet, and are then available for download from the Town web site. Wiedemer established “Saturday with the Supervisor” for informal monthly neighbor chats, and hosted quarterly Community Discussions with the Town Board in neighborhoods throughout Penfield. He encouraged public information meetings for all important topics including Open Space, Parks and Trails development, efforts to make Penfield bike-friendly, studies of key town areas including the Crossroads and Route 250, and most recently a series of public meetings and workshops on the current Comprehensive Plan Update.

The popular Dolomite Lodge and Amphitheater, with its free musical entertainment, were added to Veterans’ Memorial Park. Heritage Park in the historic Four Corners and Rothfuss Park, a 70-acre facility with sports fields, pavilions and a playground, were added to the Town’s park system. Wiedemer is known for promoting healthy, active lifestyles in the
Penfield community. An ongoing wellness partnership with Wegmans and the addition of the Eastside YMCA to Penfield will continue to support that goal.

Wiedemer is credited with working with other municipalities in the spirit of cooperation to share expertise and resources. An example is working with the Town of Irondequoit to support its communication with residents by way of public access television.

Facility improvements include the Town Hall auditorium renovation and greater handicap accessibility and a new conservatory room at the Penfield Community Center. Supervisor Wiedemer has also initiated facility energy audits and an internal “go green” effort with town staff.

George Wiedemer and his wife, Cathy, chose to live in Penfield in the 1970s. They raised a family of four children and are now proud grandparents of seven. The Wiedemer family serves the Penfield community as volunteers in many dimensions including support of the Shepherd Home, Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, and faith-based charities.

Wiedemer stated, “I would like to thank the incredible Town staff for all they do for our residents. And I thank the residents of Penfield for putting their faith in me over and over again. It has been an awesome privilege to serve you, fight for you, and represent you both in the Monroe County Legislature and the Town of Penfield.”

Supervisor Wiedemer’s term expires December 31, 2009.

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