PENFIELD, N.Y., JULY 31, 2009 – The Town of Penfield has been awarded two $40,000 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to improve handicap accessibility at the Town Hall, Penfield Community Center and Rothfuss Park. The grants were secured by Penfield’s Monroe County Legislator Tony LaFountain and funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG grants are administered by the Monroe County Community Development Administration. Funds are available as of August 1, 2009.

A $40,000 CDBG ADA compliant grant will be used to remove and replace existing damaged concrete pathways with new heated brick walkways at public entrances to the Penfield Community Center and Town Hall. The projects include the front entrance and south walkway (Penfield Library side) at the Penfield Community Center and the entrances to the Town Hall.

New ADA compliant textured pavers, underlaid with sensor-managed electric heat tape, will improve the safety and accessibility of entrances in winter months. Sensors will monitor temperature and moisture, triggering heating under conditions of cold, snow and ice. This will virtually eliminate icy conditions to improve year-round mobility for handicapped persons and seniors. Salt use will be significantly reduced, making walkway maintenance more environmentally friendly. By keeping up with icy conditions, heated bricks will also reduce staff maintenance time and costs. Because the bricks sensors are ‘smart,’ heating elements will not be triggered when there is only cold weather with no snow or ice. Project engineering, design and construction are provided by the Town of Penfield.
“Improving access to Penfield’s public buildings is valuable for all our residents, especially in our climate. Safer walkways, along with earlier improvements that widened and automated doorways, and provided windbreaks, will make our busy Community Center and library an even more appealing destination,” said Monroe County Legislator Tony LaFountain.

A second $40,000 CDBG stimulus grant will be used to continue the plan to make Rothfuss Park handicap accessible. A 2007 CDBG grant was used to install sidewalks along Five Mile Line Road leading to the park. In 2008, a new playground, two open air pavilions and internal crushed-stone walkways were added. The 2009 CDBG funding will build on the Rothfuss Park plan by adding 8-foot wide paved asphalt walkways that will provide handicap access to restrooms and sports fields. Paved walkways will also make the park more convenient for families.

Supervisor George Wiedemer said, “We’ve made access to Rothfuss Park easier for all, now paved walkways will make it easier to get around within the park – a major piece of our long-range plan. Families and teams enjoy the central location and the playground, sports fields and trails. Even some of the town’s special events have been moved to Rothfuss Park because of its accessibility and wide open spaces.”

Work will begin on these projects in August. All schedules are weather dependent.

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