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PENFIELD TO RENOVATE HARRIS WHALEN PARK LODGE
Update for more space and efficiency

PENFIELD, N.Y., October 29, 2009 – The Town of Penfield will renovate its lodge in Harris Whalen Park to modernize the building, make it more handicap-friendly, improve energy efficiency, and create more functional space.

The existing cinder block structure began as an open shelter and was enclosed in the early 1970s. By today’s standards – and in comparison to the town’s other facilities – the structure is outdated and inefficient.

Plans include a total exterior renovation with brown siding, a green metal roof and field stone accents. The building will be fully insulated and heated by a radiant floor system. The interior will be dry-walled and more aesthetically pleasing than the original cinder blocks. The ceiling will be updated, and the kitchen will be relocated to provide more interior space and handicap mobility. New appliances will meet current energy standards, and the large stainless steel sink will be re-used. Bathrooms will be rearranged and updated with touch-free sanitary fixtures. A gas fireplace will add ambiance and more warmth for the many people who rent the lodge for winter sledding.

The main entrance will gain a new porch that will add 300 square feet to the lodge’s useable space. Internal and exterior lighting will be more energy efficient, and the asphalt surrounding the building will be removed and replaced with pavers. Parking will remain the same.

Supervisor George Wiedemer says, “This is a much needed renovation for Harris Whalen Park. While the work may inconvenience some during construction, the final product will be worth it and add years of
value for residents. We are planning the work for the winter to minimize the impact on limited summer months.”

Construction is expected to begin late December 2009 to early January 2010 and continue into the summer of 2010. This lodge has been removed from the town’s reservation system from mid-December into July 2010. The schedule is variable and will become more specific once construction is underway. Updates will be available online and in the news.

Residents who traditionally reserve this lodge during the construction period should note the reservation black-out and make alternate plans for their activities. The town’s Recreation Department and website will recommend other sites within and outside of the town of Penfield. Weekend reservations for the popular Dolomite Lodge in Veterans’ Memorial Park typically fill up on the very first day of registration (December 1), making it an unlikely substitute for the Harris Whalen lodge. To increase the chances of securing a reservation at Dolomite, the town is recommending weekday rentals when there are more open days and lower rental fees.

“There’s a good chance demand for Penfield lodges will exceed availability during Harris Whalen construction. We are working hard to identify alternatives for winter and summer lodge rentals within Penfield and in neighboring towns to assist residents with their plans,” said Recreation Director Mike Cooper. “I encourage people to be flexible and plan weekday events when possible.”

The project is financed through incentive zoning funds from the Arbor Ridge development on Fellows Road. The Town Board approved increased density within the residential development to support the needs of a senior living community. The need for more senior housing is identified in the town’s existing and new Comprehensive Plan Update. The town of Penfield will provide much of the labor for the project. Drawings of the lodge renovation will be on display in the Town Hall rotunda.

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