FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENFIELD RE-OPENS HARRIS WHALEN PARK LODGE
   Lodge offers more space; energy efficiency

PENFIELD, N.Y., JULY 30, 2010 – A ribbon cutting ceremony for the re-opening of the Harris Whalen Lodge at Harris Whalen Park will take place on Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 11:30 AM. Elected officials will be present, and the public is welcome to attend.

The Town of Penfield has renovated its lodge in Harris Whalen Park in order to modernize the building, make it more handicap-friendly, improve energy efficiency, and create more functional space.

The once 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 By today’s standards – and in comparison to the town’s other facilities – the structure was outdated and inefficient.

Now that construction is finished, many improvements are evident. The lodge has undergone a total exterior renovation featuring siding and a metal roof. The building has been fully insulated and a radiant floor system has been installed. The interior has been dry-walled and is more aesthetically pleasing than the original cinder blocks. The ceiling has been updated, and the kitchen relocated to provide more interior space and handicap mobility. New appliances now meet current energy standards, and the original large stainless steel sink was re-used. The bathrooms have been rearranged and updated with touch-free sanitary fixtures.

The main entrance has gained a new porch that adds 300 square feet to the lodge’s useable space. Internal and exterior lighting is more energy efficient, and the asphalt that once surrounded the building has been replaced with a permeable paver system. This system permits “stormwater infiltration” – a process
whereby rainwater and snowmelt pass through the pavers directly into the ground, eliminating stormwater run-off into drainage systems. Stormwater infiltration is critical to the groundwater supply, which according to the US Geological Survey, is one of the United States’ most important natural resources. This is just one example of how the town is making choices that are good for residents and the environment.

“The Town Board is delighted with the outcome of this project,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “This renovation updated a very popular shelter which is heavily rented by our residents for parties, family reunions, and special volunteer programs throughout the entire year. Two very important facts about this project are the extensive energy conservation efforts that went into this remodeling to provide more comfort to those utilizing the facility and to reduce costs to the taxpayer, and the fact that our town facilities employees did most of the work.”

The project was financed through incentive zoning funds from the Arbor Ridge development on Fellows Road.

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**Best Visuals 11:30 to 11:45 AM**

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