FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winter Parking Rules and Snow Removal Reminders

~Winter safety reminders from Town of Penfield~

PENFIELD, N.Y., NOVEMBER 8, 2011 Ð The Town of Penfield Highway Department is preparing for winter before the snow flies. Crews are hot-patching roads and readying trucks with plows and computer-controlled salt distribution equipment that efficiently manages salt application for an optimum balance of public safety and material management.

The Highway Department would like to remind residents that snow plow rules are in effect November 15 through April 1. This means no parking is allowed on all roads and highways between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM to allow highway crews to safely and effectively maintain roads.

Plows and resident mailboxes are sometimes a hot topic in the cold winter months. Regrettably, in extreme winter conditions, mailboxes can be damaged during snow removal because they are installed close to the road in the highway right-of-way as a courtesy to the US Postal Service. In most cases, damage to mailboxes is a result of the force of snow coming off a plow's blade rather than from taking a direct hit from a plow blade. Snow-related damage is dependent on weather conditions, amount of snowfall, and the weight of snow.

At times a town or private contractor's plow will accidentally hit and damage a mailbox. This is an unfortunate consequence of snow removal with heavy equipment in challenging weather conditions. If a mailbox is pushed over and has no impact marks, it was probably knocked over by the weight of snow from a plow blade. If the mailbox or post shows evidence of an impact, it may have been struck by a town or private contractor plow blade, or even a passing vehicle. The angle at which a mailbox has fallen can help to determine the source of damage.
If a Town of Penfield plow directly hits and damages a mailbox, the town will replace the mailbox with a standard-issue black or silver metal box and a single 4x4 post. Residents should call the Highway Department at 340-8710 if this happens. If a mailbox is damaged from snow coming off a plow blade, the town will not replace the mailbox. Residents should learn private contractor policies on property damage before the plowing season begins.

Supervisor Tony LaFountain stated, “When the snow does come and it surely will please allow for extra drive time. Clear all snow from your vehicle including headlights and tail lights and give plow operators plenty of room to do their job. I’ve ridden shotgun in a plow, and I can tell you cars are not always visible; drivers will not win a race against a plow if they make risky moves. We want everyone to be safe on our roads.”

Another important reminder from the Highway Department: New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and New York State Highway Law prohibit depositing any snow upon the highway or its shoulders. This includes pushing snow across a highway or into a cul-de-sac. Many neighbors complain about this during the winter months. Monroe County Sheriff Deputies will issue tickets if this occurs. Plow contractors must push the snow only onto a customer’s own property.

**Media Contacts**

R. Anthony (Tony) LaFountain, Penfield Town Supervisor 585.340.8631
Phyllis Ely, Communications 585.340.8647
Penfield Highway Department (Mon-Thur 6:00 AM - 4:30 PM) 585.340.8710

###