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Town of Penfield Website Receives Top Ranking in New York State

~ Website is a “good example” for other municipalities ~

PENFIELD, N.Y., DECEMBER 22, 2014 – The Town of Penfield earned top ranking among municipal websites in New York State, in a report put out recently by the Empire Center for Public Policy. Penfield was recognized for its website’s ease of use and access to information for residents. The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) think-tank based in Albany, NY.

The report reviewed the 500 most populous county, town, city, village and school district websites in New York State between July and September 2014. Websites were evaluated based on the availability of information such as contact information, spending data, labor contracts and public meeting records, and the ease of locating the items.

“It is our goal to ensure that Penfield residents have access to all public information on our website within one business day of its release to the public,” said Town of Penfield webmaster David Renner. “Our site is not real flashy, but we pride ourselves on transparency and the content we provide.”

Eighty-five percent of the municipalities evaluated earned a failing grade, according to the report. The report states, “Most of the 500 local government and school district websites we reviewed...need major improvements before they will be providing citizens with all the public information to which they are entitled.” Further, 427 of the websites failed to receive even a minimum passing grade of
“D,” based on the report’s scoring criteria. Penfield received a “B” rating by earning the highest number of points (122 of a possible 146) among the 103 evaluated town websites. The report also highlighted Penfield as one of the “good examples” for others to follow to improve their websites. No websites achieved an “A” rating.

“I would like to thank Town of Penfield staff for their efforts to consistently look for ways to improve and enhance our website,” said Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “Our website has become an essential part of daily business and is used regularly by our residents and the general public.”

Penfield has had a website presence since the early 1990s, and currently develops and implements all of the content in-house.

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