Happy New Year! I hope your 2012 will be filled with joy and good health! One of my New Year resolutions is to look for a way each week to help make this great community of Penfield even better than it is today. That may include supporting a community group or local business; helping out at a school or senior living community; picking up papers or garbage at a park or along one of our many trails. Regardless of the weekly item or task, I hope to have a small impact on the quality of life in our town, and I encourage all of our residents to consider a similar resolution. What we do together will make Penfield an even more desirable community than it is today!

I would like to give a special thank you to all the members of the town staff and to my colleagues on the town board for their support in making 2011 another year of great accomplishments for our residents. All of these people make the supervisor’s job fun and satisfying, and I look forward to pushing the bar even higher in the coming years with good things happening around town. Please mark your calendars for the “State of the Town” address on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall auditorium. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Christmas tree recycling will continue at the Highway Department facility, 1607 Jackson Road, through February 2. All trees dropped off will be ground up and made part of the free mulch pile available at the Town Hall from early spring until we run out of material for the year.

As I am preparing this column, we are seeing this season’s first real look at winter. Our town employee safety committee would like to remind all residents to watch out for ‘black ice’ in your driving and walking travels. With the temperature floating up and down around the freezing mark we are sometimes fooled with what is wet versus what is frozen. Please take special care and wear the proper shoes or boots and allow for extra travel time to work and for appointments. Let’s not start 2012 with broken arm, leg or shoulder due to a slip and fall accident.

As the Penfield Public Library gears up for an exciting 2012 program season, two items caught my eye. The first is the Civil War Series celebrating the 150th anniversary of the war. The four-part series is co-sponsored with the Penfield Heritage Association and the Penfield Local History Room and begins January 15 with other programs on February 12, March 25 and April 21. The second item of interest is the vast selection of programs (especially at February break and April recess) for children that run now through the end of April. For further information on these programs and scores more, please log on at www.penfieldlibrary.org.

Speaking of February and April Breaks the Recreation Department has also put together some wonderful events for our youth to include skiing, bowling, gymnastics, swimming, arts camp and more during the break weeks. These programs tend to fill up quickly, so don’t delay. Registration begins January 3. Log on at www.penfield.org to reserve your spot now.

Consider adding text messaging for Penfield Recreation program updates and information. You will be contacted for weather cancellations, field changes or location changes. Log on at www.penfield.org, click on Parks and Recreation on the left hand column, then on online registration for WebTrac. Select Contact us then in the comment area add your cell number and carrier. This is yet another way to meet your recreation needs!

Until next week, be well and be safe.

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