Don’t forget to recycle that Christmas tree! You can bring your tree to the DPW facility (1607 Jackson Road) at your convenience—before, during or after business hours. Just enter the facility and look for the “place tree here” sign on the gate. Trees will be ground up and added to the community mulch pile for distribution in the spring.

There have been many news articles in recent weeks regarding the Target data breach that occurred late November and early December involving more than 40 million customers. As customers, what should we be doing to watch for fraud on our accounts? Experts will advise you to monitor your transactions and statements on all your cards on-line to ensure no one is using your card illegally; report any suspicious transactions immediately by contacting the card issuer (the phone number is on the back of most cards); check your credit reports regularly (you may get free credit reports from the three major U.S. credit bureaus each year and you can pay a small fee for more frequent access checks); and finally, stay informed as the Target investigation continues so you are aware of what steps have been taken to protect your data.

The weather has been unusually cold and it has been difficult to get those pre-schoolers outside to play safely, and the house is getting smaller, what can you do? The Penfield Recreation Department suggests you enroll in “sporty sprouts”! This pre-school tri-sport six week program is for girls and boys ages 3-5. Children will be introduced to soccer, tennis, and basketball in a fun, fast-paced setting. The goal is to spark your child’s curiosity for sports by teaching them the basic skills through age adaptive equipment and games. For more information please log on to www.penfieldrec.org. The program starts January 18 and runs through March 1 at the community center. Come have some fun!

The town board holds its 2014 organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 8. At this annual meeting all boards, committees, and employees are appointed or re-appointed for the upcoming year; contracts are established for insurance and other goods and services purchased for the town; memberships are established in various organizations; and banking and other financial agreements are approved. If you miss this meeting and would like to view it or any other past town board meetings, you may log on at www.penfieldtv.org to watch archived video.

I would like to recognize all of our DPW employees for their efforts during the most recent storm to hit our area. These men and women are out keeping roads, sidewalks, and parking lots cleared for residents’ use. Storms like this are difficult to keep up with due to snowfall and drifting snow; however, our crews spend many hours keeping everything open and as safe as possible for us all…great job all and thank you!

So 2014 is here and I hear a lot of discussion around losing weight, joining a gym, improving nutrition, and many other New Year’s resolutions under the theme of wellness and fitness. The town’s Employee Wellness committee reminds us we should remember portions versus servings when filling our plates. The first quarter of the year the wellness committee will focus on nutrition and weight management. If you need a little help to get you going, check out the countless number of wellness programs offered in 2014 through Penfield Recreation. Log on at www.penfieldrec.org for complete offerings and details. Registration began Thursday, January 2.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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