I would like to start this column off by recognizing our Highway and Parks Departments for all their great work keeping our roads and sidewalks clear and safe during all the snow and cold weather we have had to date. Thank you one and all!

As a reminder, winter parking rules are now in effect in Penfield through April 1. This means no parking is allowed on all roads and highways between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. to give plow crews full access to roadways. I would like to clarify information regarding plowing and salting procedures in Penfield. Our Highway Department plows state, county and town roads in Penfield. Main roads are routinely salted, and side streets with hills, curves, and busy intersections also receive salt runs. Public safety is always a first concern followed by awareness of costs and the impact of salt on our environment. The Parks Department plows sidewalks along primary roads. Subdivision sidewalks are not plowed.

During a snow event, please allow for extra drive time. Clear all snow from your vehicle including headlights and tail lights. Give plow operators plenty of room to do their job for you. Don't try to race a plow or make quick moves to "beat the plow." Cars are not always visible and big trucks cannot always stop quickly to respond to sudden moves.

Next week the Town Board will begin to review Goals and Priorities with all department heads to move forward with established plans for 2010 and to lay the ground work for the 2011 budget process. This process was established close to twenty years ago and has served to be the foundation for very successful budget development which has helped the Town Board to cut costs and control spending. My 2010 State of the Town Address will highlight these Goals and Priorities in more detail.

Each year in the February time frame the Town Engineer’s office coordinates a sidewalk information meeting. This session gives our residents an opportunity to identify locations to add or expand our sidewalk system. Over the last three years the Town has installed more than 12,000 linear feet of sidewalks. The 2010 budget contains funding for approximately 4,000 linear feet. (To submit a suggestion for sidewalks, go to www.penfield.org, public works, engineering, sidewalks, and see the form at the bottom of the page.)

Next week I will update you on the new Energy and Environmental Advisory Committee, as well as exciting new things we are brainstorming around enhancing our website. In the mean time, our team stands ready to support you in any way.

Please contact me directly at 340-8630 or supervisor@penfield.org