The Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee will officially kick off on Monday, February 1. The first order of business will be to brainstorm any and all ideas for public education and awareness, environmental stewardship, energy consumption, the use of natural landscapes and gardens, and recycling.

It is not the intent of this committee to reinvent the wheel, rather the interest is to capitalize on the work done to date by many individuals, groups, and organizations and take Penfield as one of the leaders in the county to one of the leaders in the state.

I look forward to working with the diverse group of interested residents the Town board has appointed.

We have begun work on enhancing our website. Initially you will see some subtle changes to the home page, communications, links, and more. It is the intent of your Town Board, lead by Councilman Rob Quinn and Councilwoman Paula Metzler working with Town Staff, to add and expand the capabilities of our website by adding more information and details. Our residents have asked for a more open and transparent Town government, Penfield has and will continue to be the benchmark.

If there is something more we should or could be looking at, please contact us at webmaster@penfield.org.

At our last Town Board legislative session, there was a proclamation read into the record for Judge Sid Farber. Judge Farber retired after 23 year as Penfield Town Justice. I had an opportunity to work with Sid for most of his time on the bench. My observation and many comments that I have heard from town residents, attorneys, and individuals that appeared in his court was that he was always professional, listened to the facts, and treated everyone fairly. Judge Farber, thank you for your service to Penfield.

I would also like to recognize a few outstanding Penfield connections. First, Scott DeHollander, a civil engineer with MRB Group in Penfield, went to Haiti last week with a national team of experts to evaluate the safety of buildings damaged in the earthquake. Congratulations to Christine Peters, CEO of Family First Credit Union in Penfield. She was one of 22 finalists for the 2010 Athena Award from the Women's Council of the Rochester Business Alliance. Penfield-based Paychex Inc. ranked number 54 on Fortune magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For” list for 2010. Paychex has been on the list seven times since 2002. Also, Hong Wah Restaurant in Penfield was one of three area Chinese restaurants recognized as a top 100 Chinese restaurants in the sixth annual “Top 100 Chinese Restaurants in the USA” awards. Congratulations to owners Vicky Shi and Kevin Zheng.

Upcoming columns will highlight such topics as the impact of governor’s budget on the Town of Penfield, presentations to community groups, 2010 sidewalk priorities, drainage programs, and upcoming spring and summer roadwork.

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