The next hike sponsored by the Penfield Trails Committee is the ever-popular February “Indoor Hike” on Saturday, February 11 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Penfield Town Hall Auditorium. This year’s featured speaker is Chris Costello, a professional land surveyor who will share information and photos in his presentation, *Letchworth’s Portage Viaduct – New and Old*. Lace up your boots and join our trails committee to learn the history and the future of Letchworth rails and trails, a topic that will draw both railroad and hiking enthusiasts! This is a FREE event and open to everyone, refreshments will be served. For more information on this hike and all others planned during 2017, please go to [www.penfieldrec.org](http://www.penfieldrec.org); I hope to see you at the Indoor Hike!

Is the up and down of the weather driving you crazy? Are you not a winter sports enthusiast? If so, consider joining Penfield Recreation most every Friday night through March at the Penfield High School pool! Come play, swim, and exercise while enjoying this spacious pool. The shallow end features a 4x4 tot dock for the little ones and the deep end is set up for water walking and lap swimming. Also, swimmers who pass the deep end test can also enjoy the one-meter boards in the diving well. The fee is $2.00 at the door. Go to [www.penfieldrec.org](http://www.penfieldrec.org) for more information about this aquatic wellness program and other wellness activities.

Winter break is scheduled for the week of February 20–24. Penfield Recreation and the Penfield Library are hosting a number of activities and programs to occupy our younger residents. Please check out all of the offerings at [www.penfieldrec.org](http://www.penfieldrec.org) and [www.penfieldlibrary.org](http://www.penfieldlibrary.org).

Fortunately, we rarely have to cancel programs due to weather. However, there are times when Mother Nature makes it necessary to do so. When that happens we post cancellation notices online at [www.penfieldrec.org](http://www.penfieldrec.org) and on our program information phone line at 340-8655, option 2.

Please note: Penfield-Webster and Monroe County normally host a hazardous waste collection in late April to give residents an opportunity to dispose of old paints, cleaning supplies, fertilizers and more. Monroe County has notified us that this year’s collection is scheduled in the fall on Saturday, September 16 in Webster. The county would like to remind everyone that the ecopark facility, located at 10 Avion Drive near the airport, is available year-round during the week and most Saturdays for household hazardous waste appointments and recycling. Go to [www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark](http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark) to learn more. As we get closer to the September 16 collection I will make sure to cover it in this column. We will also post details on the town website including the number to call for appointments.

It is not too late to sign up as a driver for the volunteer senior transportation program to be known as Bri-Pen rides. Drivers, dispatchers, and transportation coordinators are needed for our pilot program. Drivers will be thoroughly trained through Lifespan’s “Give a Lift” program and will receive supplemental insurance. For more information about volunteering, please call Pam at 340-8664.

Temperatures are dropping and the snow is still blowing but don’t give up hope, spring is just around the corner. To help you take your mind off the winter weather, consider renting a garden plot to join a vibrant community of organic gardeners at the Penfield Community Victory Garden. Now is a good time to start planning for the upcoming growing season. If you would like more information about the garden, who is involved, and all the great things the group has done to date, please go to [www.penfieldvictorygarden.org](http://www.penfieldvictorygarden.org) or call Penfield Recreation at 340-8651.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony

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