Recently I spent time with Penfield Librarian Bernadette (Bunny) Brinkman talking about all the wonderful things the library offers our great community. She reminded me that February is “Love Your Library Month,” and how can we not love the Penfield Library? It has it all—a helpful and friendly staff, programs for all ages, and a warm and inviting setting. There are many programs during school break week February 21 – 25 to mark on your calendar. A number of them caught my eye including “Teens Read Away Your Fines,” “Read for Great Prizes,” “Meet Mr. Beau the Clown,” “Stuffed Animal Pet Show,” and “Family Game Day.” For these and many more program offerings please refer to the Recreation Brochure or log on to www.penfield.org and click on departments, then on Public Library.

Speaking of the library, I am reminded by our Town Historian and Local History Room Coordinator Kathy Kanauer, who is located at the Penfield Library, to please remember the Local History Room as you are cleaning out your basements and attics. If you come across photos or documents of the early Penfield years, please consider dropping them off to be scanned into our records. Preserving Penfield history for future generations is a gift that will keep on giving!

On Wednesday February 16 at 6:30 PM, I will give the “State of the Town Address” to the residents of Penfield. Everyone is welcome to attend, it will be held at the Town Hall in the auditorium. I will discuss accomplishments from 2010 and lay out our goals for 2011. Subjects to be covered include financials, Penfield Business Districts, staffing, capital projects, projected impact of the Governor’s 2011-2011 budget and special programs and projects. If you cannot attend due to schedules or other commitments, the session will be live on PCTV government access and WebTV and will be replayed throughout the end of February and early March.

Today many of us carry a cell-phone. I am recently reminded to encourage all of our residents to make sure that under the “contacts” list in our phones to include an I.C.E. (in case of emergency) number reference. In the event a paramedic or other caregiver needs to contact a family member or friend of an injured person it can save valuable time and resources.

I was encouraged by the Governor’s executive budget plan to transform New York. There were four key steps identified: redesign how the budget is created; make it a management exercise not a budget exercise; bring all stakeholders to the table; lead by example. Now the words need to become actions. There is a 10 billion dollar deficit today! The taxpayers of New York cannot and should not accept increased borrowing or raising taxes to address this problem. All levels of government must cut spending and reduce costs. Government must run like a business and government must have the discipline to spend within its means for the good of the taxpayers. Penfield will continue to be a leader in managing costs and reducing government.

The Town will be holding its second annual “Living Next to a Storm Water Ponds” in late March or early April to share educational information with residents, listen to their concerns, and discuss the care and maintenance of storm water ponds. The discussion will be lead by the Town Engineer with support from the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District. Further details will be posted on the website, in this column, and on PCTV over the next several weeks.

I would like to congratulate PCTV Coordinator Dave Renner and his wife Sabrina from our Recreation Office on the birth of their first child last week, a little boy. Other than new and different sleep habits and meal times, everyone is doing well…congratulations Sabrina and Dave on behalf of the entire Town Staff.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony

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