I had an opportunity to present the “Wellness of the Town” (formally know as the “State of the Town”) last week. My presentation included financials, energy and the environment, community and business wellness, as well as 2011 accomplishments and 2012 opportunities. I wish to thank all of our residents who have called, emailed or stopped me out in the community to comment on the presentation. If you did not have the opportunity to attend or tune in, please log on to www.penfield.org to view at your convenience.

I recently had a new and wonderful experience at Dayton’s Corners School. For more than 20 years I have visited the school, been liaison to the Friends of Dayton’s Corners School Committee, and attended many functions and socials. Last week I had the pleasure of assisting Miss Jan (Jan Almstead) in teaching an Indian Landing fifth grade class to show students what it was like to attend class in a one room schoolhouse in 1857. It was a rich and rewarding four-hour experience with a very interested group of students who played the part perfectly to gain the most from the program. If you have never stopped in at the school, please consider doing so, this facility is one of many jewels we have in Penfield.

I am delighted to report that the Town of Penfield has completed our first solar-powered project. This innovative project, which was endorsed by the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC), recently converted a small pump station from electric to solar power. Through the efforts of EEAC member Bob Kanauer and his company LTHS Solar, SunWize Technologies, NYSERDA, RG&E, Direct Grid Technologies, LLC and town employees, this “Solar PV ‘Net Zero’ Pump Station” will pay for itself in less than three years. This is not a large project that will save the town a huge sum of money; the value of the project will come in the form of knowledge and influence on more significant future efforts to use sustainable resources in the town. Soon Penfield TV will share a video program that documents the project from start to finish.

I would like to recognize Hong Wah Chinese restaurant for earning its 4th consecutive “Top 100 Overall Excellence in Chinese Cuisine” award for its healthy menu. Hong Wah opened in July 2007 and is noted for its consistently fresh and tasty foods, excellent customer service, a friendly, bright and comfortable atmosphere and its cleanliness. Congratulations to Vicky and Kevin Zheng for this award, and remember to “shop and eat locally – healthy businesses make for a healthy community.”

The annual Mardi Gras Shoe Box Float contest will be held Tuesday, February 21 at 12:45 p.m. at the Community Center. Join the fun by having your family or organization design and donate a “shoe box float” for our Senior Citizen Mardi Gras Party. Just find an empty shoe box, decorate it and bring it to the Penfield Recreation office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 17. Be sure your name and phone number are on the bottom of your box. This is always a fun event, come and join in!

Recently our Town Clerk Amy Steklof received a very special visit and gift from Dave and Paul Spanganberg. It is a wonderful watercolor of an undeveloped section of Ellison Park, titled “Silent Wheels” and painted by their father Cliff Spanganberg, who passed away 10 years ago. Mr. Spanganberg lived in the town and was very active in the Penfield Art Association. It is an honor for the Town of Penfield to be gifted this painting. We will hang it prominently in the Town Hall for all residents to view. I read an article published in October 1988 in which Mr. Spanganberg was quoted as saying, “…I feel I’ve been given a gift and it would be a shame to let it go to waste.” Once you see this beautiful painting you will fully understand and appreciate his quote. On behalf of the entire Penfield community, we send a special thank you to Dave and Paul for sharing this wonderful art piece that will be part of Penfield history for many years to come.

Until next week, I hope to see you out and about in the town!

Tony
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