Final reminder…all exemptions must be filed with the Assessor’s Office by Tuesday, March 1 before 5 PM. Renewal exemptions and enhanced STAR exemptions for senior citizens must be filed by March 1st as well. If you have any questions about exemptions, please contact the Assessor’s Office between 9 AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday at 340-8610.

It was brought to my attention that long-time Penfield resident and businessman John Boychuk recently turned 98 years old. His grandson Michael Hartman surprised him with a pizza party which was enjoyed by all. John, on behalf of the entire community of Penfield, thank you from everyone you have served over the years from your tailor shop in the Four Corners and Happy Birthday!

Hannah Ely, a senior at Penfield High School, recently traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska with her team to compete in the US Curling Junior National Championships. Hannah's team was on one of two women's teams representing the Eastern US region. For their first-ever ever trip to Nationals, the team of four met their goals on the ice and finished above their ranking, which is a wonderful accomplishment. The trip was complete when the team was able to see a Northern Lights show that the locals hail as one of the best in recent history. I continue to be amazed with the diversity of interest and activities our residents are involved in throughout the US and worldwide. Congratulations Hannah on this season's achievements!

Several times a year, I have the opportunity to meet with our various service organizations. I spent time last week with the Pen-Web Rotary to discuss all the great things going on in the town. In our short time we discussed business vitality, new housing starts, energy conservation programs, enhanced communications, the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, and Public Works Projects for 2011. I wish to thank Pen-Web Rotary for their hospitality and I would like to recognize all Rotarians who volunteer locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto “Service Above Self.”

The annual “indoor hike” was held last week, hosted by the Penfield Trails Committee. The auditorium was filled with many residents from across the County to participate in this program that featured Tim Cawley, Director of the Rochester Museum & Science Center Outreach – Science Education discussing “The Unique Environment of Western NY State.” The Penfield Trails Committee was created in 1997 as an advisory committee to the Parks & Recreation Board. In addition to leading hikes and providing educational programs, this committee is involved with building new trails and maintaining more than 15 miles of existing trails within the town. For more information on this committee or other boards/committees within the Town of Penfield, please log on to www.penfield.org and click on Boards. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved, we would love to have you more involved in your community.

Our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is in need of two student representatives. Any students from the Penfield School District or a Penfield resident in the Webster School District are welcome to apply. What are the criteria to be a student rep? A student who is at least a freshman, willing to attend one meeting a month, has the ability to bring the pulse of the students' parks and recreation interests to the table, and wants to help make this great community of Penfield even better. If you have an interest or know of someone that may have an interest, please contact Chris Bilow at 340-8666.

This is getting to be a regular closing paragraph for me as we welcome another birth…I would like to congratulate Councilman Rob Quinn and his wife Michelle on the birth of their second child, a son, Robert IV. Everyone is doing well, especially big sister Mae…congratulations Michelle and Rob on behalf of the entire Town Staff.

Until next week, keep the faith…spring is really coming, honest!

Tony
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