Last week I presented “Business Vitality in Penfield 2012” at the monthly meeting of the Penfield Business Association (PBA) at Shadow Lake Country Club. I provided updates on what is going on in the town’s six business districts, shared how the town board has reduced costs for everyone in Penfield, and I also addressed some commonly asked questions about town operations. The PBA turnout was great and the discussion rich. The PBA also kicked off its 20th anniversary celebration by recognizing its nine founding members. My message continues to be “shop locally – healthy businesses make for a healthy community.”

On February 13th I attended the Penfield Symphony Orchestra (PSO) concert “Overtures to Our Valentines” with music by Rossini, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and more. The members of PSO, directed by David Harman, provide our community with some of the best music in the region. I would like to congratulate the four students who were recognized for the Jo Amish young artist competition. I would also like to recognize the Penfield Central School District for hosting the PSO at the wonderful setting of Penfield High School. The next concert “Swing into Spring” will be held March 25 at Casa Larga from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Please log on to www.penfieldsymphony.org for concert program details and tickets.

The Penfield Trails Committee’s annual “Indoor Hike” was successful with more than 40 people in attendance. A variety of community hiking and trails groups from around the area provided displays and information. David Wright from Victor Hiking Trails did a wonderful job as the keynote speaker. We are indeed fortunate to have a group that works to obtain easements; designs, builds and maintains trails; and works with their respective communities to expand and connect trail systems.

I was recently notified the NYS Department of Transportation will not be rebuilding Route 441 from Dublin Road east to the county line as planned for 2013 due to funding constraints. Rather, they will patch potholes and place a thin top course on the existing roadway and look to fund the project in six to eight years. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Daniel Schwind, Project Engineer, at (585) 272-3368 or by email at dschwind@dot.state.ny.us.

After 17 years, the town’s Animal Control Officer, Ray Wilson, has retired. On behalf of the town board and the entire community of Penfield, I would like to recognize and thank Ray for all of his efforts to support our residents by finding lost pets, addressing nuisance animal issues and rescuing wildlife. Best wishes Ray for a long and healthy retirement! I would like to welcome Tammy Sweet as the new Animal Control Officer. Tammy has been a part-time Animal Control Officer since 2002 and has made a smooth transition into the position. Good luck Tammy, we look forward to working with you.

By official designation, the clematis, in any of its variations of color, was made Penfield’s official flower in March 1973. It is written that Norman Vane, owner of the DS George Nurseries, had them blooming throughout his greenhouses and would decorate the Town Hall on Heritage Day. I recently learned that Lois O. Vane, Norman’s wife, passed away at the age of 91. When I first came to Penfield in 1975 I had the opportunity to meet both Norman and Lois who worked together in their greenhouses. This is a loss for our rich agricultural heritage in Penfield. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family for their loss.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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