Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
February 20, 2019

I would like to recognize and thank the guest columnists that stepped up and prepared such wonderful columns while I was out of the office with a knee replacement. Our department heads are true professionals who work so very hard to support Penfield in every aspect of the day-to-day operations of local government...thank you team, your actions do not go unnoticed!

If you are looking for a night off from cooking, mark your calendars for a delicious pasta dinner! Members of the Penfield Community Victory Garden (PCVG) and Boy Scout Troop 230 will host a pasta dinner on Wednesday, February 27, from 4:30 until the pasta is gone at the Penfield Community Center. Eat in or take out! Tickets are available at the Penfield Recreation office or at the door for $8 per person (kids 3 and under are free). There will also be a raffle to support the PCVG. For questions or tickets, please call 340-8655, option 0. I hope to see you there.

Over the past several weeks, employees of the Department of Public Works have been dealing with a variety of quickly changing weather conditions including snow, high winds with drifting snow, and sleet with freezing rain. These dedicated folks work extended hours to clear roads and sidewalks for the safety of our residents traveling to work, school, and important appointments. I would like to recognize and thank them for their service to our community...great job all!

You might have seen or heard some references to the recently adopted Governor’s budget and its unprecedented cuts to the unrestricted state revenue sharing program known as Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) to the tune of $59 million, effectively gutting the program to all local governments. What does this mean for Penfield? Our impact amounts to $142,000. Why is this such a blow to local governments? This action was taken after all of our budgets were proposed and adopted for 2019. We do everything possible to project expenses and revenues for the year as we are putting our budgets together. The decision to cut AIM funds without any notice tells me that Albany is not our government partner as we so often hear from the governor’s office! I understand and respect that government at all levels must control expenses and revenues for the year, but to pull this historic funding with no warning in the eleventh hour is poor management by the governor and the legislative bodies in Albany.

What’s next and how do we address this $142,000 shortfall? I will be working with all department heads to identify areas to cut back and review proposals with the town board to minimize the impact on overall plans for 2019. I will keep everyone updated as new or additional information comes to light on this matter.

One last plug for the Monday, February 25 Penfield Symphony Orchestra concert entitled “A Suite for a Sweet” to be held at the Penfield High School Auditorium at 7:30 PM. For more information on this concert and remaining programs for the year, please visit www.penfieldsymphony.org.

The next scenic trek sponsored by the Penfield Trails Committee will be held on Saturday, March 9 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Shadow Pines property. Join the committee as they explore the hiking trail developed thus far. Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the Clark House off Whalen Road and look for the hike signs.

The Penfield Trails Committee is always seeking volunteers to serve on its planning committee, as well as volunteers to do manual labor for trail maintenance. For more information, please call the Penfield Recreation Department at 340-8655, option 0.

Bri-Pen Senior Rides is always looking for volunteers. Support is especially important this time of year with a number of residents vacationing in the warm weather and not available to help until March or April. If you would like to help as a driver or volunteer to dispatch one day a week from your home, please call 340-8674. Your involvement will help a Brighton or Penfield senior by getting them to a medical appointment, religious services, or the town recreation center.

Until next week, enjoy the longer days and keep your fingers crossed for milder weather!

Tony

supervisor@penfield.org