Facebook and Twitter have become an easy and great way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), they have also opened up an opportunity for burglary and scams! Think twice about letting people know you are on vacation or out of town; while you may be keeping your friends updated as to what you are doing, you are also letting others know your home will be empty. Please be cautious when posting your updates…you never know who might be checking! Also be selective when choosing a “friend” if you do not actually know the person. Be wary of messages from friends or strangers who want to direct you to another website with a hyperlink. Make sure your computer’s operating system and antivirus and firewall are up to date. Social networking is a great communication tool, as long as you take steps to keep your sensitive and important information private.

Last Friday more than 60 friends and family members gathered to honor Tom Falk, who retired at the end of 2010 as a volunteer member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Tom served our community on this board for 35 years, and was Chairman for almost 30 years! During this time, Tom helped to quadruple Penfield Recreation program offerings, supported two referendums to purchase the Baird Road School and to expand it to what we know today as the Community Center which houses the Recreation Department, Library, and Town Courts. Tom was also very active in the ‘70s and ‘80s to secure land and help develop the Penfield Little League Complex at Veterans’ Park at the Town Hall. Penfield is known for its great quality of life, healthy active lifestyles, and thoughtful sustainable living…one of the main reasons for this is because of the kind of involvement and leadership that residents like Tom Falk provide this great community year after year, and decade after decade. Thank you Tom for all your dedicated service to Penfield!

Recently I had the honor to present my second “State of the Town” address to the community. The update included accomplishments in 2010, goals for 2011, an update on financials, capital projects, wellness, business vitality, and energy programs. I wish to recognize and thank the entire Town Staff for their energy and support they provided over the last year. To the 100+ volunteer residents who serve on our boards and committees, your efforts benefit this community in so many ways each and every day. Lastly, to my fellow elected officials, your commitment and interest in our town and residents is second to none. If you did not have a chance to see the “State of the Town” address and would like to see the actual presentation or view the PowerPoint material please log on to www.penfield.org to view. And as always, if you have any questions or ideas as to what we can do better to make Penfield an even more desirable community than it is today, please contact me.

On February 24 Guy McGowan, a long-time resident of the town, a fixture in the Four Corners as a businessman and a volunteer Fireman with the Penfield Fire Company for more than 63 years, celebrated his 90th birthday. There was a gathering of friends and colleagues at the Fire House earlier in the day. I had the extreme pleasure of stopping in and thanking Guy for his many years of community service as well as wishing him a very Happy Birthday on behalf of the entire Penfield Community.

“Generations strong” is what makes Penfield so special.

Spring will make an appearance in Penfield very soon, last week we had a taste of what lies ahead. It is not too early to start thinking about reserving you garden bed at the Community Victory Garden on Five Mile Line Road. This is a great opportunity for families, service organizations, and others to grow their own organic vegetables, flowers and herbs for their consumption or for the needy in the community. For more information, you can attend an informational meeting on March 3 at 7 PM or contact the Recreation Department at 340-8655 or go to www.penfield.org and click on Parks & Recreation.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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