In a recent *Democrat & Chronicle* article on local government transparency the Town of Penfield was recognized for doing a very good job of providing government information on its website ([www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org)) for residents and others interested in all aspects of our local town government.

The quote reads:

"*The Town of Penfield* does a fairly exemplary job of putting up information for residents so they don’t need to file FOIL as frequently. There’s a side rail with links to video of town board meetings, a calendar that clearly lays out which boards are meeting when, and a link to “Online documents” that includes bid documents, draft ordinances and plans, meeting minutes and agendas – for all town boards, not just the big ones. Penfield’s website has a wealth of information available, budgets, annual financial reports, Moody’s bond rating info… Way to go, Penfield!"

This article shared information on a USA Today Network project for Sunshine Week 2017 and invited citizens to take an online survey to assess the current health of e-democracy by measuring local town or municipal websites against a checklist of features that characterizes best practice. If you would like to participate, here is a link to the [survey](http://www.penfield.org).

I am delighted with the efforts of all our department heads and their respective teams for continually looking for ways to update and add information to make Penfield government as accessible to our residents as possible. Additionally, our website team, lead by David Renner, is responsible for keeping the site running behind the scenes to ensure content is in keeping with our high standards and that all related links are functioning properly.

Our commitment to you is to continuously look for ways to enhance your online experience at [www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org). If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding content or improvements for the website, please send an email with your ideas to [prteam@penfield.org](mailto:prteam@penfield.org)

For more than a dozen years I have been honored to sit on the board of directors of Crime Stoppers. I joined this wonderful organization when I was at Kodak as the Fire/Security Director and continued on after I retired. This group is made up of past and current members of law enforcement, attorneys, bankers, and business people from many local companies.
Our chairman of the board, Paul Hawkins, shared 2016 data with the board at our last meeting. Crime Stoppers received a total of 886 tips (615 tips by phone and 271 online soft tips) resulting in rewards for the following outcomes/arrests:

- 42 felony arrests
- 6 murders and 2 pending
- 16 violation parole/probation
- 8 felony assault
- 5 bank robber with 5 pending
- 6 burglary
- 1 handgun arrest
- 2 arsons

Additionally, in 2016, the “fugitive flyer” that appears in the Democrat & Chronicle showcased 89 fugitives in six flyers—68 of those individuals were arrested.

For more information on Crime Stoppers please go to www.roccrimestoppers.com. To report information on a crime, please contact the confidential hotline at (585) 423-9300. The information you provide could make a difference in solving a crime. Thank you in advance of your support to Crime Stoppers.

Upcoming topics for my weekly column include an update on the start of our next Comprehensive Plan (this plan is updated approximately every ten years, it is a 12–18 month process); an overview of businesses in Penfield and our low vacancy rate; an overview and update of recreational and open space across the town; highlights from our solar PV project that will finally begin after delays from local utility companies; the new “Zombie Property Law” passed by the NYS Legislature; an update from our annual meeting with the NYS Department of Transportation; and much more.

If you have any items of interest that you would like me to comment on in this column please drop me an email at supervisor@penfield.org and I will follow up in future columns. Thank you in advance for your interest in your local government.

Until next week, enjoy the warm break in the weather and take an opportunity to visit one of our many parks and trails in Penfield. While spring is still a good month or more away, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and the days are brighter each day!

Tony
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