I frequently receive calls and emails from residents asking me when the town will let Greenlight Networks expand their system in Penfield. As many of you are aware, Greenlight is a fast growing company that provides an all-fiber optic network that is faster than broadband. I have had the opportunity to meet with Greenlight on this topic and can report they are very excited about having a bigger build-out in Penfield and across Monroe County in 2020.

With a $100 M investment by Tom Golisano and LeChase–Joint Venture, Greenlight can concentrate on locations of build-out, network design, permits, and easements. LeChase can focus on providing construction and on-time, on-budget delivery. The company’s build-out strategy continues to be based on customer demand.

During the first half of 2020, Greenlight will be working in the following areas of Penfield: Hilltop, Beacon Hills, Crossbow, and Periwinkle. They will also be working to complete thirteen other locations in the town by year-end. As those locations are finalized and shared with the town, I will pass that information along to all of you. It is our understanding that Greenlight plans to have around 6,300 homes connected by year-end. With the quality partnership of Greenlight, Golisano and LeChase, I am excited about the build-out of this network in Penfield!

I am reminded by our IS/IT service providers that they are seeing an increase in cases of “phishing”—fraudulent emails, texts or phone calls designed to trick you into providing sensitive personal data. Scammers may impersonate companies or people you know in an attempt to trick you into sharing sensitive information like social security numbers, account numbers or passwords. Some scams get you to click on links to malicious attachments.

What are some things you can do to help prevent the infection and spread of phishing? Never provide sensitive information to an unsolicited call, text or email—even if the communication appears to be legitimate. Be cautious of any unexpected requests or demands that claim to be urgent or require immediate action. Do not use the same password across multiple sites. When in doubt and if you question the legitimacy of any request, contact the source directly. Taking a few extra minutes to verify a request may save you many hours sorting out problems with accounts and other personal information.

The days are getting longer and there is a hint of spring in the air. Now is the time many of us start thinking about a new deck, putting a pool in the backyard, or maybe adding on some extra space for the family’s use and enjoyment. Regardless of your project, now is the time to start taking action to secure necessary building permits. At this time of the year our Building Department can turn a permit around in a week or less based on volume. In another month or two, that turnaround time will increase up to two to three weeks. For more information on permits go to www.penfield.org, choose Departments, then Building/Zoning. Here you can find brochures, forms, and links to Town Code to help you understand the process and secure necessary permits. You may also call 340-8636. Good luck with your new project!

A representative from the U. S. Census Bureau visited our last town board meeting to provide an update on the upcoming 2020 Census. Between March 12 and 20, invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will start arriving in households across the country. Counting every person in the United States in a census every 10 years is a challenge; counting every infant and toddler in the country may be one of the most challenging parts of the job. Parents and adults with young children often don’t realize they need to include all children who live with them full-time or at least most of the time. In the 2010 Census, nearly one million children (4.6% of children under the age of five) were not counted, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In fact, children under age five are one of the largest groups of undercounted people in the United States. Counting young children will be vitally important in the 2020 Census because population statistics are used by local, state, and federal lawmakers to determine how to spend billions of dollars in federal and state funds annually over the next 10 years. Locally, we rely on census data to develop plans and projects in our own community.

Until next week, enjoy the milder weather!

Tony

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