Effective March 14, 2011 the Assessor’s Office will move from 1567 Jackson Road (the Don Mack building) to the second floor of the Town Hall on Atlantic Ave. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to observe many of our residents coming to the Town Hall to conduct business, and then need to drive over to see the Assessor on Jackson Road, and in some cases return again to the Town Hall to complete their business. This was not convenient or productive for our customers. Having the Assessor’s Office at the Town Hall in the same facility as Building/Zoning, Planning, and the Town Clerk makes a lot of sense for all our residents.

As we start to get some break in the winter weather, our Highway crews are starting to spend more time working on drainage, roadway and sight distance tree trimming. We have also begun work on Sherwood Fields Park located on Penfield Road just east of Harris Road, adjacent to Penfield Fire Station #2. Our goal is to complete the final grading of the primary trail, prepare the ground for the “Don Cranson Bridge” crossing the Commission Ditch, and start to place park signage. We plan to officially open Sherwood Park on or before June 1. It has taken us a bit longer than planned; however, the end result will be a wonderful new park for residents of all ages to enjoy.

This time of year I begin to receive calls and emails asking about plow damage and our schedule for repairs. Our Highway crews typically do not start this work until mid-April to ensure the snow for the season has truly ended. There is no need to call to report damage as the crew for the various plow routes will typically repair their route. As we get closer to spring and begin this work I will keep you updated via this column and on our website at www.penfield.org.

The Council of Governments, which is made up of all the towns, villages, County of Monroe, City of Rochester, and representatives of the School District Association meet on a regular basis to address areas of common interest and reform. The three areas we have targeted are health care, economic development, and mandates. Some of communities (Penfield is one of ten) formed a consortium in 2010 which resulted in savings in health care costs at a time when they were rising significantly. Our goal is to continue to pressure our state lawmakers to reform state government, reduce the waste, cut costs of mandated services, and reduce spending. Certainly a tall order for a group that has not lived within its means for decades; however, locally will need to keep the pressure on for all our residents!

The Health Care Consortium held a kick-off meeting for our Employee Wellness Program this past week. I have the honor and pleasure to chair this committee for the Consortium. Our goal is to provide wellness tools and resources, health management programs, and other healthy living choices for all of our employees. If we can help someone stop smoking, lose weight, reduce blood pressure, or assist in other ways to keep employees healthy and at work, everyone wins. Employees will have a better quality of life and health care costs could be reduced. It looks like its more exercise for me and better eating habits; I know my doctor will be pleased!

At this time of the year we start to receive applications for seasonal jobs. If you have an interest in working at the Recreation Department, Highway, or Parks and Facilities, please contact the Personnel Office or go online at www.penfield.org and click on Departments, then Personnel.

Save the date…Tuesday, April 12 is the 2011 “Living Next to Storm Water Ponds” public information meeting. Details will be mailed out to those directly impacted and an announcement of the presentation will be posted on our website. The 2010 meeting proved to be beneficial to both residents and Town Staff.

Until next week, I look forward to seeing you out in this great community!

Tony
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