Last week the Monroe County Planning Department held several information meetings regarding the Monroe County Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2012–2017. The one project that directly impacts Penfield starting in 2012 is the Penfield Road bridge “rehab” over Irondequoit Creek. This bridge is located in the Panorama Valley area as you head west up Penfield Road towards Gentles Farm Market. This project will include an extended shoulder for a sidewalk and bike-friendly use. As the CIP receives final approval from the County Legislature and detailed plans are available, we will work with the County to hold a public information meeting for our residents.

Spring is beginning to show its face with longer days and melting snow. Another sign of spring are the notifications we are starting to receive for summer road work from the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). We have been notified that three intersection improvements will be made in Penfield. The first location is at the intersection of Rt. 441 and Linden Ave where the existing right shoulder on Rt. 441 eastbound will be reconstructed to provide a “formal” right turn lane for traffic turning onto Linden Ave. The second and third projects are turn lanes along Rt. 250, one at Atlantic Ave and the other at Plank Road. The projects will begin in June and are scheduled to be completed by the end of summer.

While we are on the topic of road projects, I have had several inquiries over the last several weeks regarding the status of the traffic light at Jackson Road and Atlantic Ave. At a recent meeting with the NYSDOT, they confirmed that this project will be constructed in 2011. The contract to perform the work has been awarded to a utility construction company, the materials have been ordered, and recently the crew was on site digging test holes. The hope and goal is to have the project completed by early summer. This project has been a long time in coming and will make this intersection safer for our residents traveling through this area.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a luncheon this week “Honoring Our Local Heroes,” sponsored by Legacy at Willow Pond. This event held was to thank all the Police, Fire, and EMS agencies that support this great community of Penfield. We are indeed fortunate to have the quality public safety agencies that serve us each and every day. Let us never take them for granted and always take a moment to say thank you when we see them out and about in our town.

The next 50-plus special Tuesday event at PenRec will be a St. Patrick’s Day Party on March 15. Corned beef and cabbage, green beer, and soda bread are on the menu; lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. If you would like to join in the fun, you must purchase a lunch ticket prior to the event by contacting the Recreation Department at 340-8655.

This is the last call for the Senior Citizen Academy beginning Thursday March 31, sponsored by the Recreation department in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department. This FREE nine-week program will give participants a great overview and understanding of the public safety resources available to our residents. Deputy Michael Manioci promises a wonderful educational experience. For more details, please visit www.penfield.org and click on Parks and Recreation, then on programs.

At the last Town Board meeting we were honored to host a dozen graduate students from the University of Guelph, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Guelph is located in Canada, approximately one hour west of Toronto. Dr. Wayne Caldwell takes his students on an annual trip to visit communities in the US to observe best practices in local planning, environmental preservation, and rural development. This year through the efforts of Katie Evans and our Planning Department, the University of Guelph selected Penfield as a community they wished to visit and spend time speaking to staff, residents, and planning professionals. We had a very active and exciting day-and-a-half sharing our recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, review of the Town’s planning process, and site visits to our farm community and other unique environmental protection areas.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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