Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column

Week of March 7, 2016

Guest Columnist Tom Tette, Director of Building and Zoning, Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement

Once again it is a pleasure to be a guest columnist on behalf of the Town of Penfield’s Building and Zoning, Fire Marshal, and Code Enforcement department. We continue to serve the community in many ways, some more visible than others. It is our job to ensure homes, businesses—and all projects small and large—are conducted in compliance with requirements that keep our community safe.

To do this, we issue permits for construction, renovations, and operations as required by Town of Penfield, New York State, and International building codes. The Town of Penfield has put together additional building and code compliance regulations for the well-being of all who live in, work, and visit our town.

Although this has been a relatively mild winter as far a snow goes, winter hasn’t let up yet. Warmer weather will come, and so will the “building season.” Before the season hits, I would like to remind everyone of the necessity for building permits.

What projects require permits? Anything you wish to build or erect—sheds, decks, pools, home additions, and new homes. We receive applications year-round, however most permitting for new builds or remodeling projects in our region occurs in the warmer months. That’s when our department gets busy and the processing time for permit applications can become extended.

If you are already planning a project for this spring or summer, I encourage you to begin the permitting process as soon as you can. Permits are valid for one year from date of issuance. We process applications in the order they are received. Typical turn-around time on review and issuance of permits is two-to-three weeks. Depending on demand this can take less or more time. Quick turn-around is important to you and our department. We want to deliver prompt customer service, and you want to get started on your project as soon as you can. So if you have a project in mind, we look forward to seeing you at our counter on the second floor of the town hall very soon!

With spring comes yard sales and other events that generate temporary signs. If you are planning a sale or other activity, please review Town of Penfield rules for placement of temporary signs before your event. (See the “Rules for Temporary Signs” flyer online at www.penfield.org, under Building and Zoning, Documents.) You want your signs to be seen, and we don’t want to have to take them down because they are creating a hazard to motorists or pedestrians.

To search and review all Town Code including rules for construction and temporary signs, go to www.penfield.org, online documents, town law and code.

As Fire Marshal, I’d like to reinforce the importance of the visibility of house numbers. Not only is visibility important to the U.S. Post Office and other delivery services, it is critical to emergency responders. Emergency agencies may be called to your home for police, medical, or fire emergencies. Clear, visible, contrasting colors for house numbers are required by law. So please take the time to make sure your house numbers are unobstructed and visible from the road.

Before you begin any project, we welcome your questions to help ensure your safety and success. Drop in and visit us on the second floor of the Penfield Town Hall or call us: Building Department 340-8636, Code Enforcement 340-8635, or Fire Marshal 340-8643.

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