Census news…by the time you are reading this column, many of you will have already received your forms by mail and I am encouraging you to take the few minutes required to fill it out and send it in!

The 2010 census will play a critical role in determining how the federal government distributes more than $400 billion each year back to the states, then down to local communities like Penfield for critical programs in education, transportation, housing, community development, and health care.

In a year in which local budgets are stretched, ensuring we get our fair share of federal funds through a complete and accurate count is even more essential. More than 200,000 New Yorkers were not tallied in 2000, costing the state tens of millions of federal dollars which negatively impacts Penfield, both the Town and the School District…let’s all do our part to ensure the highest level of participation.

It was great to see the snow melting over the last week; I think everyone is getting anxious for spring. To that end I want to share some great things our Sewer Department is doing to help reduce costs to our residents that fits in with melting snow and groundwater.

Groundwater entering our sanitary sewer system is very costly. One moderate manhole leak can account for thousands of dollars of annual wastewater treatment costs. Currently we have more than 3,200 manholes in the Penfield system.

Our staff has been working with a manhole sealing system called “Seal Guard.” To give you a snapshot of the effectiveness of this product, between the materials and labor hours, we invested less then $500 on a recent manhole leak. The savings for not having to treat this groundwater infiltration based on calculations and review with Monroe County Pure Waters will be $2,000 annually.

Not every manhole in our system requires work; the Sewer Department has a list of leaking structures they will be working on this year. I will update you on the actual savings in this column at the end of the year. This is yet another example of the innovativeness of our Town Staff to help reduce spending and costs to you.

Over the next several weeks we will be adding this “Seal Guard” process and several other Public Works video clips to the website to give more information on the great work going on in our various departments.

This week’s candidate for “Penfield’s Wall of Fame” is Steve Pellow, Chairman and President of Kids Miracle Making Club, Inc. Their trademark is “Kids Turning Learning into Helping Kids in Need.”

Check out [www.kidsmiraclemakingclub.com](http://www.kidsmiraclemakingclub.com) for more “Learning to help Kids in Need through Community Service."

This is yet another example of the great work that many of our residents perform to make this Penfield Community so special…thanks to Steve and his wife Amy for all they do for the youth in our Town.

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