Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column

Week of March 16, 2015

Guest columnist Ronnie Williams, Director, Department of Public Works

On behalf of the DPW, it is a privilege to be the supervisor’s guest columnist and share seasonal information with Penfield residents.

First, as this year’s long winter season slowly melts away, I would like to solicit the help of residents to assist the DPW in keeping roadside storm sewers (catch basins) free of ice and debris to prevent local flooding. Once the snow is finally gone and the ground thaws, our crews will be out repairing mail boxes, lawn damage, and potholes. DPW will also inspect sidewalk plow routes to verify winter damage caused by plows and schedule restoration work.

Please make note of the following spring events to help you dispose of hazardous materials and unwanted household items, and watch the town website for other upcoming cleanup activities.

First, the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the towns of Penfield, Webster, and the Village of Webster, have joined forces again this year to hold an appointment-only Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Webster DPW Garage, 1005 Picture Parkway, on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Schedule your appointment and learn more at http://www.monroecounty.gov/hhw.

DPW will host its annual Spring Drop-off at the 1607 Jackson Road facility on Friday, May 8, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Drop-off is for Penfield residents only. We will accept general household refuse, metals, concrete, brush, tree limbs, and tires. We will not accept TVs, computers, monitors, propane tanks, grass clippings, leaves, chemical drums, hazardous materials, gasoline, motor oil, paint, or driveway sealer (see above for hazardous waste).

I recently had the opportunity to join a statewide group of town highway superintendents in Albany seeking additional funding for town and local roads improvement projects and capital funding for bridges and culverts. The group is seeking a five-year extension to the current highway program called “CHIPS” and an increase in funding by $200 million to help fix many of our deteriorating local roadways, bridges, and culverts. The group is also seeking a capital fund of $100 million to support major local road and bridge projects over a five-year period for a total of $500 million.

If you are not satisfied with the condition of local roads, we need your support now as the legislature establishes the budget over the next few weeks. Your voice will help us secure funding for these two important programs and improve the roads you travel every day. Please write or contact your New York legislative members and ask them to support these efforts and fund these programs. Local taxes alone are not sufficient to maintain the safety of our roadways and bridges.

Safety is our number one goal every day. We strive to make sure our community is well maintained and protected from any possible hazards. You can help us by driving at reasonable speeds through work zones and following road work signage instructions. If we all work together we can make the coming “construction season” productive and safe for all.

If you have any questions on any topics in this column please call 340-8710 or email publicworks@penfield.org. You may also check out our webpage (www.penfield.org, Public Works) for upcoming projects.