I have been notified that Town Engineer Geoff Benway will be receiving the American Public Works Association (APWA) Harry S. Swearingen Award for the New York State Chapter in recognition of his past and continued dedication and service to APWA. Geoff will receive the award at the statewide conference and awards banquet scheduled at the end of March. On behalf of the town staff, I would like to congratulate Geoff on receiving this prestigious award.

I recently received an update from the Workers’ Compensation Policy Institute informing us that a surcharge added to workers’ compensation costs for all New York State employers is nearly five times the average of the same surcharges imposed in other states. These assessments are a tax on workers’ compensation premiums. In the past two years New York State increased this tax by 10.4 percent and 27 percent. Penfield, like most municipalities, is finding itself between a rock and a hard place. The Penfield Town Board met the requirements of the 2 percent tax cap that was required for the 2012 budget; however, there are no constraints on unfunded mandates or the high cost of health insurance, retirement, Medicaid and workers compensation. New York State has only addressed the tip of the iceberg as it relates to increased costs and runaway spending—left unchecked all communities across this state will be looking at bankruptcy!

Now is the time to start planning for spring cleaning, so mark your calendars for these community events. For details on all events go to “Quick Links” on home page of www.penfield.org and choose “The Great Penfield Cleanup.”

Saturday, April 21, 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monroe County Household Hazardous Waste Collection for Penfield and Webster at the Penfield Highway Garage, 1607 Jackson Road. This service is by appointment for your safety and convenience. To make an appointment call 585.340.8710 or http://www.monroecounty.gov/hhw through April 20.

Saturday, April 28: Two events!
Penfield Cleanup Day, 9 a.m. to noon at the Penfield Community Center. Call 585.340.8655 for info and to pre-register your group or family.

Electronics Recycling and Secure Document Destruction, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MAY 10, 11, 12: Spring Drop-off
Thursday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Penfield Highway Garage, 1607 Jackson Road.

The next Penfield Rotary Band “Nels Carman Big Band Night” is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Penfield Community Center. The fee is one dollar, payable at the door. The band will play two hours of your favorite big band sounds for dancing and listening.

Eldersource Care Management Services, a collaborative of LIFESPAN and Catholic Family Center, is a community intake, assessment and care management system. This program features a one telephone number entry into age-related services and professional social workers who guide older adults and caregivers through the very complex long-term care system. For information call 325-2800. An Eldersource case worker will be at the Penfield Community Center the last Tuesday of every month. The next date will be March 27.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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