Penfield business owner Sara Jane Clifford has asked me to help spread the word that the Gymnastics Training Center (GTC) and her team will be hosting a free computer/electronics recycling event on Sunday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their facility, 2051 Fairport Nine Mile Point Road. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your spring cleaning and help a wonderful cause by bringing in old and unwanted equipment including computers, monitors, TVs, modems, microwave ovens, fax machines, copiers, other audio visual components and more. Not only does this event help the environment by keeping electronics out of the landfill, GTC will be compensated on a per pound basis by the recycling company. Proceeds will be used to provide gymnastic programs for children with disabilities.

Chris Bilow, Penfield Recreation Department Director, informs me that the Wegmans healthy vending machine located at the Community Center outside the library has been a tremendous hit—and in its first week sold out of product. We have received rave reviews from many of you who have been at the Community Center and taken advantage of the healthy choices. This program is a perfect fit with the town’s “wellness” theme, and we are delighted to be the first town to be selected for installation of a healthy snack vending machine. Chris also informs me that we will be installing a Keurig vending machine on a trial basis to meet the coffee and hot drink needs of all our residents and visitors.

The landscaping around the Community Center has served its useful life, specifically the large pines on the south and west side of the building. When originally planted in the 1960s they were an appropriate size and scale for the facility. Today the pines have matured to the point that they tower over the building and cause us several thousands of dollars in labor and maintenance of plugged drain lines, HVAC repairs and water damage to the roof. Additionally, these trees are now damaged from storms and disease and they will have to be taken down. The Town Board has been working with our landscaping architect on plans to replace the trees and provide new sitting and gathering areas outside the building. Our goal is to display landscaping plans at the Penfield Library for residents to view and offer comments. We would like to start work this year with a completion date of 2013.

I would like to recognize and thank Governor Cuomo for the passage of a historic pension reform bill that is looking to save the state and local governments and school districts nearly $80 billion over the next 30 years. The new tier VI creates progressive contribution rates for future state and local employees. I would encourage the governor to next work on the many other unfunded mandates that flow down to local communities. This past year a 2% tax cap was put in place for all local governments and school districts; Penfield met that mandate by controlling costs and reduced spending to keep the rate flat for our residents. As I have stated before, New York State has only addressed the tip of the ice berg. While progress is being made, we must be more aggressive in reducing costs and controlling runaway spending. I encourage all of us to continue keeping the pressure on all elected officials to reduce the size of government at all levels—taxpayers can not sustain these increased costs year on year!

Important dates and events in history: March 29, 1961 – the 23rd amendment is added to the Constitution, giving the District of Columbia the ability to vote for president and vice president, as they were not able to do this before because they were not a state. March 29, 1973 – the last of the American forces leave Vietnam.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the unusually warm weather, so until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
340-8631
supervisor@penfield.org