I apologize for my column not hitting the March 24 issue of the Penfield Post; we bumped up against the paper’s deadline and found ourselves out in the cold. To view last week’s column and all others, please log on to www.penfield.org.

Saturday night the Town Board attended the 2011 Awards and Installation Banquet for the Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance (PVEA), and I must say the energy in the room was electrifying. This group of volunteers, their spouses, and significant others are an amazing and very special group of individuals. The call volume for 2010 increased 25%, or 600 more calls than in 2009, which is an amazing statistic. If you think that number is impressive, how about Charlie Fendt, Sr. who logged 1,766 service hours last year; or Lucy Burdick who completed 40 years of service! The night was capped off with the presentation of the “Member of the Year” to Bohdan Ersteniuk, recognizing him as a member who went above and beyond during 2010; and PVEA’s highest honor, the “Outstanding Service Award,” was given to Ted Boccuzzi. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, congratulations to the award winners and a special thank you to all the members of PVEA for what you do for our town.

A pre-construction meeting was recently held for the Jackson Road shoulder reconstruction project that will start in April and run into early October. The work on the south leg will begin at Brougham Drive and run north to Atlantic Ave. The other section will start at State Road and run north to Ridge Road in Webster. This project will see the installation of drainage improvements, a wider shoulder to encourage and accommodate bike traffic, and a repaved road surface. This is a Monroe County project paid for by the federal stimulus program.

I am reminded by the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department (MCSD) that there are individuals calling the elderly and identifying themselves as their grandson or granddaughter. During the call, the “grandchild” becomes upset while speaking to the elderly victim and another person takes the phone and identifies themselves as a sergeant. The “sergeant” then directs the elderly victim to send an amount of money to NYC to bail out the “grandchild” who has been arrested for driving too fast. In some cases the victim has complied and wired the money only to learn this was a scam and they are out the money. Never wire any money or give anyone a credit card number unless you can verify the information.

While the annual Spring Drop-off is still six weeks away (May 12 – 14), I am reminded as I drive through the town that many homeowners are already cutting down or trimming trees preparing their yards for spring. REMINDER – the Highway Department accepts logs, tree limbs, and stumps year-round. The items may be dropped off at 1607 Jackson Road from 6:30AM – 3:30PM Monday through Thursday; please stop by the office to sign in.

If you have a thought or idea on a subject you would like me to cover in this column on anything going on in this great community, please drop me an email at supervisor@penfield.org or call my office at 340-8631.

Until next week…be well, be safe!

Tony