The snow has melted, geese are flying, early flowers are coming up, and I have seen many of our residents out cleaning up their yards getting ready for the spring/summer seasons.

I have had the opportunity to speak with a number of landscapers, nurseries and garden store operators recently and they have one consistent message for all the “do it yourselfers” as it relates to applying lawn care products and fertilizers…less is better.

Professionals ask that you test your soils before you apply products to ensure you are applying the correct material – and to verify if you need to use any products at all. Read instructions carefully and apply during optimum conditions, and do not over apply materials as it may harm your lawn, pets, the environment, and more.

Studies have shown that properties adjacent to retention ponds contribute to the algae plumes and odors through over fertilizing their lawns. Please practice sensible lawn care, it will save you money and help the environment!

One of our first spring cleaning events to recycle electronics including TVs, computers, monitors, microwaves and such will be held Saturday, April 3 at the Community Center on Baird Road from 9AM – 1PM. The event is sponsored by Penfield Booster Wrestling; proceeds will be used for equipment and materials for their upcoming season.

This is a great way to get rid of those old items that have been sitting around collecting dust and always in your way! The small disposal cost goes to a wonderful youth group in our community and minimizes materials going to the landfill. This is another good practice for the environment.

Last week the Monroe County Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) held their monthly meeting at the Town Hall. There were two major items on the agenda. One was a presentation on planned improvements at Abraham Lincoln Park on Empire Blvd. Construction will start in early May and be completed in the fall; this will be a wonderful addition to the County Park system located right in our backyard.

The other agenda item was a presentation regarding the Seneca Park Zoo’s new lion exhibit. The plans are exciting, and construction is expected to start shortly after approval is received from the County Legislature. It is great to see the Zoo continue to grow and expand.

The entire Town Board had the honor of attending the recent 2010 Awards and Installation Banquet for the Penfield Ambulance, my only reaction is wow…amazing! We are so fortunate to have an organization like this in our community. These volunteers give so much to ensure our well-being. Many members were recognized for logging 500 to 850 and more hours annually. There are several members who have 40 or more years of service.

The highlights of the night were the service awards. Trish Boccuzzi received the Outstanding Service Award; Hank Kingston received the Member of the Year; and Marv Bielicki received the Auxiliary Member of the Year.

The Town Board was so impressed with everyone in this organization that this week’s candidate for the “PENFIELD WALL OF FAME” is the entire Penfield Volunteer Ambulance Organization.

Thank you one and all for everything you do to make this community of Penfield so great!

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