Recently the County of Monroe’s Department of Transportation (DOT) held an information meeting at the Town Hall for the proposed Penfield Road bridge replacement project over Irondequoit Creek. The County, along with their project engineers, provided an overview that includes replacement of the 1929 steel structure, a new concrete deck, sidewalks on one of the sides with railings and curb. Preliminary design starts May 2011 with final design being complete by year-end. Construction is planned for May 2012 and completed by December. If you have any questions on this project, please contact Karen Cox at 753-7742 or kcox@monroecounty.gov.

On Tuesday, April 12 the Town Board and Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District will co-host its second annual “Living Next to a Stormwater Pond.” The meeting will include highlights of work completed in 2010, best practices for those who live on or near a pond, and work proposed in 2011. This topic has been of interest in many neighborhoods. When developments are new and ponds are free of cattails and vegetation, most residents do not have a problem. Over the years with run-off from fertilized lawns and other materials, ponds can become an unattractive nuisance. This program is intended to educate and dialog about pond maintenance. I hope to see you there; details are online at www.penfield.org.

The West Webster Fire Department recently held its annual awards banquet. The Town Board recognized retiring Chief Anthony Galante for his service and support to the district, which covers a large portion of the northwest Penfield. I have said it many times before, Penfield and Monroe County are blessed with the dedicated men and women serving in our Fire Departments. Congratulations Chief Tony on your service to the district and the great community of Penfield.

At a recent Town Board meeting, Jean Baric of the Allens Creek–Corbett’s Glen Preservation Group (ACCGPG) and Tom Robinson from Environmental Design and Research presented a plan for sustainability in the Allens Creek-Corbett’s Glen Area, which includes land in Penfield and Brighton. ACCGPC is advocating for the preservation of additional land within the lower Allens Creek Valley. This is a beautiful area that warrants consideration of an intermunicipal approach, watershed strategies, conservation easements, and site development guidelines. Penfield and Brighton will continue to meet with ACCGPG on a path forward.

It has been a while since I have updated you on the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee. The committee continues to expand its goals and priorities to look at “green awards” for small businesses, “green ambassador awards” for elementary students, offering a “certified document destruction” program, and educational programs for all residents. We post items of interest, ways to save money, and new programs on www.renewpenfield.org. If you have not been to this website, please log on and have a look at the content, we hope you find it useful and educational. Also see “The Great Penfield Spring Cleanup” at www.penfield.org for disposal, recycling and environmental opportunities.

The Governor’s budget is structured to close a $10 billion deficit with no new taxes, cuts to waste and inefficiency, and ensures that the government will finally tighten its belt – just like every family in this state has had to do! While I may not agree with all the proposed cuts and reductions, it is about time the State has stepped up to the plate to deal with the issues at hand. It’s refreshing to see the Legislature had the courage to move this budget forward, all of the taxpayers in New York demand it!

Until next week, I will be ever optimistic that spring is just around the corner!

Tony
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