Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
April 24, 2017

Normally, when spring is in the air and the snow finally melts away, all sorts of ugly debris is revealed including fast-food wrappers, beer cans and bottles carelessly tossed from car windows, stray paper from refuse trucks and recycling bins, and construction materials from winter projects. Add to that a wind storm like we had in March with 80-plus MPH winds and you have a recipe for serious litter across the community. This was certainly one of the most dramatic springs I have seen in many years in Penfield!

So what is the answer to this year’s significant town-wide litter problem? Marisa Zwick! Marisa is a sixth grader at Bay Trail School who, at a very young age, began picking up litter in her neighborhood and adjacent ponds. Her concern expanded to other areas of the town as she was very frustrated to see her community littered and impacting waterways, wildlife, and the general aesthetics of our community.

Marisa received permission to reach out to all the principals of the Penfield schools to organize a pick-up day this past Saturday, which was “Earth Day.” There was a wonderful turnout of 54 students who went above and beyond to clean up Penfield. These enthusiastic students collected so much garbage that it could not fit in the DPW truck we had located at the community center to haul it away!

The following is a summary of their great work:

- **Harris Hill** – 34.5 bags collected. *(They win bragging rights!)* Also a special shout out to the 5-Star Pilots Robotics Team that filled 15.5 bags on their own!
- **Indian Landing** – 21 bags collected.
- **Cobbles** – 19.5 bags collected. Kudos to teacher, Mrs. DaRin, who had a group of students meet up with her to work together!
- **Scribner** – 13 bags collected.
- **Bay Trail** – 8 bags collected. A special shout out to Susan Mietus, a teacher at BT, who helped make the flyers and a video for school announcements.

I have asked our DPW team to weigh all the garbage collected and will report the tally in next week’s column.

In the coming week, Marisa will be bringing prizes for each child who participated in the clean-up, as they all worked so very hard to make Penfield a cleaner place for us all. On behalf of the Penfield Town Board and the entire community, I want to recognize and thank Marisa, her family, and all participants for the work they did on Earth Day. Marisa, we can all learn from your great example; thank you for being part of Penfield and caring so much about our town.

One last reminder for the final Penfield Symphony Orchestra concert of the 2016-17 season which will be held Monday, May 1 starting at 7:30 PM at the Penfield High School Auditorium. For details about this concert and PSO, please visit [www.penfieldsymphony.org](http://www.penfieldsymphony.org).

With spring officially here many residents are thinking about starting outdoor projects. As a safety reminder, it is important to call 811 before you dig in your yard. Why? Because 811 will coordinate with local utility companies to locate underground lines on your property. Utility lines are damaged once every six minutes nationwide because someone decided to dig in their yard without knowing what was underground. By calling 811 you can reduce the risk of damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries, and costly repairs to the person who dug without the required stakeout. Residents and business owners should call two full working days, excluding the day of a call, before digging. To schedule an appointment call 811 or go to [www.digsafelynewyork.com/homeowners](http://www.digsafelynewyork.com/homeowners).

Until next week, enjoy the nice weather. Let’s take a chapter out of Marisa’s book and clean up any litter in and around our home and neighborhood…it does make a difference for everyone!

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