The number of great things going on in this community over the last week was amazing! Thursday, April 22 marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and I had the privilege of being invited to Atria Senior Living Facility to assist their residents in planting a beautiful red maple tree, the official Town of Penfield tree, on their grounds. More than a dozen residents and staff braved the cool temperatures to celebrate this wonderful event.

Atria is not a nursing home but a very active community of senior adults. During any given month they are engaged in hobbies, exercise of the body and mind, cultural arts, volunteerism and civic engagement, as well as entertainment and socialization. In fact, the calendar for April had 280 different events and programs for residents.

I would like to thank Amy McGovern, Engage Life Director, and Wendy Jacobson, Executive Director, for the invitation to participate in this program and for everything they do for our senior population…great job!

Later in the day there was a grand opening and ribbon cutting for Penfield’s new Community Victory Garden at the Five Mile Line Road site with more than 60 friends, residents, and gardeners. A red maple tree, donated by Country Way Garden Center of Penfield (Tony and Michelle Slominski), was planted in recognition of the grand opening and Earth Day.

The mission of the Community Garden planning committee is to provide our residents with an opportunity to grow organic vegetables, flowers, and herbs for their own consumption or for the needy. The garden will also serve as an educational tool to help children explore the fun of gardening including planting seeds and seedlings, garden crafts, and even some “science in the garden.” The Community Garden is an organic garden, so children will not be exposed to any harmful chemicals.

Some garden facts: work began on this project in March of 2009; the parcel is 3.3 acres in size; 72 garden beds will be planted this year; beds will be ready for planting on May 15; the garden is completely organic; and all the labor for this wonderful project is volunteer driven.

While many individuals, groups, and businesses have been involved with this effort, I would like to recognize Dave and Carol Boyer as the honorary co-chairs for making this dream a reality.

At the last Town Board meeting, Penfield was honored for receiving the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York Platinum Award for Engineering Excellence for the sanitary sewer Extension 19 pump station replacement.

This complex project was coordinated by Mark DiFrancesco, the Town’s Superintendent of Sewers, and designed by MRB Group, Engineering, Architecture and Surveying, PC. Contractors were Villager Construction, Blackman-Farrell Electrical, and LeClaire-Fleming Plumbing. This project updated the original 1970s pump station to improve operational efficiencies, reduce energy usage, and meet current environmental standards.

On behalf of the entire Town Board, I would like to recognize and personally thank our entire Sewer Department staff for keeping the old station running during construction; minimizing backups and plugged sewers so homeowners were not impacted; and for ensuring we did not impact the environment…great work guys!

The summer 2010 Recreation Brochure is ready and was mailed to residents. If you did not receive your copy, additional copies are available at the Community Center and the Town Hall. You may also view all the programs and details online at www.penfield.org.
A few dates to remember: Penfield Little League Opening Day – May 1; Penfield Players Bicentennial Melodrama – May 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 21; Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Open House – May 16.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and interest in our town.

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