I am delighted to begin this column with exciting news that the Town received this past week. Moody’s Investors Service, the world’s most respected and widely utilized sources for credit ratings, upgraded the Town of Penfield’s previous Aa3 (excellent) rating to an outstanding Aa2 rating after reviewing the Town’s 2009 financials.

The upgrade to Aa2 reinforces Penfield’s reputation for fiscal leadership and strong management practices. This upgrade does not happen without a lot of hard work by our Finance Office, all department heads, and a responsible Town Board.

While your local government cannot control spending at State and Federal levels, we can, and do, lead by example. We control spending, reduce costs, and manage our tax dollars wisely. The results are a solid balance sheet, with a credit rating that is the highest in the entire county!

The Town Board hosted an information meeting entitled “Living Next to Ponds.” The purpose of the meeting was to share information regarding the care and maintenance of storm water ponds. Caroline Myers, Executive Director of the Monroe County Soils & Water Conservation District, presented a very detailed and informative educational show followed by a question and answer session facilitated by Town Engineer Geoff Benway.

We were delighted with the information received from residents, and I am happy to report that I have already met with Engineering, Highway, and Parks to begin to implement some changes to how we mow ponds. We are also preparing a maintenance list of items to address including: clogged pipes, damaged pipes, erosion concerns, and siltation problems. We will update the Town’s website to include much of the presentation information, including the addition of links to other helpful websites. Lastly, and most importantly, we will investigate and address safety concerns raised at the meeting.

We appreciate everyone that took time from their busy schedule to attend this meeting and we look forward to very regular and open dialog on this important topic.

Penfield Clean-up Day was a huge success! Many educational materials were handed out, most of the tree/shrub seedlings went to new Penfield homes, more than 200 compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) were given away, and most importantly, several hundred volunteers from this great community picked up over a ton of paper, cans, bottles, tires, bumpers, exhaust systems, and other refuse too numerous to list from along the highways. A very special thank you to everyone who helped to make Penfield “shine”!

I was honored to receive the Hattie Harris Good Spirits Club International Proclamation of Appreciation for elected officials for National Thank You Day at their annual luncheon last week. This proclamation recognizes leadership in service to Penfield. Councilwoman Linda Kohl was also a recipient for her work and leadership with the Bi-centennial, and received her proclamation at the National Thank you Day reception held at the Town Hall. The reception featured 41 flags on display from national and international leaders to recognize this special day.

Recently I met with the United States Border Patrol, Thomas Pocorobba, Jr. Patrol Agent in charge of the Rochester Border Patrol Station. Their primary goal is to establish and maintain operational control of our nation’s border. Agent Pocorobba outlined efforts being taken by the Rochester station to achieve the goals and objectives of the National Strategy, which includes improving the quality of life for the members of the Rochester and Monroe County community. We will be adding a link to their website in the near future to provide more public awareness.

Last reminder, Friday, May 7 is the kick-off of the Penfield Players melodrama “The Brothers O’Toole.” There will be an opening night dessert reception at 7:00 PM at the Penfield Community Center as part of the Bicentennial celebration. Special guest appearances include Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Penfield and the musical group “The Four Nouns.”

Until next week…

Tony
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