Last week, I had an opportunity to locally attend the tenth annual Town Finance School’s “Managing Costs Amid Shrinking Revenues” program co-sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of New York & the Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government & School Accountability.

This two-day event comprised of supervisors, mayors, budget directors, and comptrollers was a great opportunity to meet with local officials from across the State to discuss budget preparation, smart procurement, preparing requests for proposals, cost cutting and control, best practices, and more.

The program reinforced the fact that most local governments are doing a solid job of managing finances and tax dollars for their residents. However, I did come away even more frustrated with the State and Federal governments who have lost touch with the people they represent. I am happy to report that Penfield is viewed as fiscally responsible, very progressive, and a well run community by its peers across the State.

I received a wonderful letter from Michael Garland, Director of the Department of Environmental Services for the County of Monroe, thanking Penfield for the use of our Highway Department facilities and staff for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event held in April. More than 480 residents on the east side of the county were serviced at this event. Approximately 13.27 tons of hazardous materials were kept from entering our ecosystem through storm sewers and landfills – that’s 13.27 tons of properly disposed of hazardous waste that will not negatively impact the environment…amazing!

A bit of a side note yet consistent with this topic: I personally utilized for the first time the prescription drug drop off service offered by the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, Zone A substation on Linden Ave. This service is held the second Tuesday of each month from 9AM–1PM. The day I was there, they collected more than 75 pounds of material. This service helps keep these drugs out of the water system, away from small children, and others who might abuse them.

Penfield will continue to work with the County to help educate our residents and to look for more opportunities to properly dispose of materials and to reduce, reuse, and recycle. It makes all of us better stewards of the environment.

This week (May 16 – 22) marks two very special occasions. First, it is EMS Week (Emergency Medical Services), a time when we recognize all those who provide EMS support to our communities through the Ambulance and Fire Services. It is also National Public Works Week, recognizing our Highway, Sewer, and Engineering staff for all they do to keep our roads maintained and plowed, storm and sanitary sewer systems operating, and our water supply clean. Thank you to all the men and women who give so much to our community, you do make a difference each and every day!

What events are coming up that will be of interest to our residents?

- May 24 at 7:00 PM the Town Board will host a public information meeting on the recently completed Draft Comprehensive Plan at the Town Hall. An overview of the plan will be given and information regarding next steps and key dates

- May 31 at 10:30 AM is our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the amphitheater in Veterans’ Memorial Park on the Town Hall campus

- June 4 at 5:00 PM is the Taste of Penfield at the amphitheater. Sample culinary treats from some of Penfield’s great restaurants. Penfield Jazz Ensemble will provide the music.

- June 5, 11:00AM – 5:00 PM the Penfield School District Music Department performs at the amphitheater. This event is sponsored by Wegmans.

- June 6 at 5:00 PM is the Penfield Symphony Orchestra POPS Concert at the amphitheater. Bring your picnic basket and enjoy the concert. Food will also be available from the gourmet concession cart.

Have a great week; I hope to see you at the amphitheater for one of these wonderful events!

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