As you have heard me say in the past, Penfield continues to maintain a strong connection to its agricultural roots. The Town of Penfield has continued to look for ways to encourage active farming through large lot zoning and the purchase of open space and development rights. In Penfield, properties east of Route 250 are where agriculture meets suburbia. I have recently become aware of a wonderful event scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 PM that I would like to share. Floy-Mar Farms, owned and operated by Terry and Mary Lou Rothfuss at 1865 Salt Road, will open its farm to the community so that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Soil & Water Conservation District and the Cornell Cooperative Extension may showcase many innovative eco-management practices in use on Floy-Mar’s approximately twenty-five acres.

Floy-Mar Farms has implemented eco-friendly pasture management techniques and planting strategies that will help to eliminate contamination of local ditches and waterways. This approach incorporates laneways, fencing, landscaping and ditch cleanout. These strategic improvements are a new concept to help preserve the critical farming industry while satisfying new storm water regulations. If you have an interest in attending this open house, please contact Cathy Wallace at 343-3040, x138.

I received an e-mail from the governor’s office this week asking for help to “Reform State Government”! It states that the last major reorganization of the New York State government was done more than eighty years ago. As we all know, state government has grown into a sprawling and expensive bureaucracy that if left unchecked will bankrupt New York. The governor has created the Spending and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission, and he wants to hear our ideas for cutting costs, finding efficiencies, and doing more with less. I will remain cautiously optimistic that something will change in Albany; however, their track record is very poor! Consider logging on to http://governor.ny.gov/sage to learn more. Hopefully, with many consistent messages to the governor’s office, we can redesign our state government and bring long-term savings to all New Yorkers.

At the last town board meeting, article VII of the Zoning Ordinance entitled “Signs” was adopted by the board. This section of the ordinance had not been updated for more than thirty years and several past attempts got bogged in technical difficulties. The town board did struggle with balancing visual pollution and the need for businesses and not-for-profit organizations to provide needed exposure to advertise their services and activities. Like any adopted ordinance or local law it will not meet everyone’s needs or interest one-hundred-percent of the time or circumstances. The board weighed all the input from public comments, e-mails and letters to arrive at the final document. This document and other sections of the ordinance can be found by logging on to www.penfield.org and clicking on “on-line documents.”

I would like to encourage our residents to attend the annual Memorial Day Ceremony of Remembrance on Monday, May 30 at 10:30 AM at the Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage in Veterans’ Memorial Park. The featured guest speaker will be Ed (Woody) Mench who is the Founding Director of Honor Flight Rochester. The program includes the VFW essay contest winners, music by the Penfield Pops Band and the presentation of roses which continues to grow in popularity. We can never do too much for our veterans whose bodies, minds and spirits bear the scars of war…Memorial Day is the time to remember and honor those we love!

Reminder…the Penfield Little League will be hosting a “Hero’s Day” celebration on Saturday, May 28 at 9:30 AM to recognize the moms and dads of our Little Leaguers who are serving in the military and will not be able to see their sons and daughters playing ball this season. This will be a wonderful and touching celebration.

The town board and town staff continue to work on ideas and programs that help to make Penfield known as the “Wellness Community.” We are getting ready to kick off the 100 mile walking club. This program will run June 6 through September 30 with a goal of striding 10,000 steps per day. Log on at www.penfield.org and click on ‘Parks and Recreation’ to learn how you can receive your log sheet and pedometer to participate. I will share my progress with you as I make my way to 100 miles and more!

Until next week, I hope to see you out in the community!

Tony,
340-8631 or supervisor@penfield.org