Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
Week of May 23, 2016

Since taking office in January of 2010 I have made a commitment to write a weekly “supervisor’s column” highlighting activities, residents, and service and scouting organizations in our great community. I have regularly shared town news regarding general operations, budget preparation, events, seasonal safety reminders, and other items of community interest that directly affect Penfield residents. From time to time I have invited members of town staff to write guest columns to address specific noteworthy and timely topics including DPW road and drainage work, building and fire marshal inspections, town history, and recreational programs.

Throughout this time we have seen an evolving trend with the Penfield Post as it defines its niche with content, coverage, and distribution. At times columns were not printed, content was reduced to fit available space, and a few times the column was run in an adjacent town’s newspaper. Consistency has been an issue and a concern. Just recently I was informed that the Post will be publishing the columns of town supervisors on a monthly basis only.

For these reasons and more this will be the last column I submit to the Penfield Post. Starting the first week of June my weekly column will appear (as always) on our website at www.penfield.org. Because we will have complete control over publication and deadlines, columns will not be limited by size and space, topics will be more timely, and we can enhance information with other town media. Additionally, we will establish a distribution list of residents who would like to receive column notifications directly by email. To sign up for this service please go to www.penfield.org and click ‘supervisor column’ below my photo (or www.penfield.org, choose elected officials, Tony LaFountain). I look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the great things happening in Penfield!

Last year many of us were sad to see the closing of the Gentle’s Farm Market on Penfield Road. Robert Gentle, who passed away in 2013, was at least the second generation in the Gentle family to run the market which had been operating for roughly 60 years. Bob Gentle's daughter, Donna Gentle Cappon, took over operations until the market’s closing in 2015.

What a wonderful surprise for the Penfield Community when Patrick Lechner, co-owner of Clover Nursery & Garden Center, stopped by the town hall to say he and his brothers had purchased Gentle’s farm Market and some adjacent farmland. The new owners will continue to actively farm the property and sell produce — and they will keep the name “Gentle’s Farm Market,” as Lechner wants to preserve the neighborhood mainstay that operated for decades. “We want to keep it what it is, but just expand what it offers,” he said, adding that he plans to add trees and other nursery items to the market’s inventory.

Clover Nursery & Garden Center will continue renovating the market property, and the market may stay open into Halloween pumpkin and Christmas tree seasons; however that is still to be determined. Clover also operates a nursery in Brighton along with a landscaping business.

On behalf of the entire Penfield community, I extend a special welcome to the Lechner family — we all look forward to continue supporting this great business in the town.

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Penfield Amphitheater music series starting Friday, May 27 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with outstanding Penfield High School performing groups and the popular food truck rodeo. Programs will run through mid-September. I hope to see you there!

Remember, starting the first week of June, please log on at www.penfield.org to continue reading my weekly columns and click on my photo to be added to our column notification list. As always, please let me know if you have topics you would like me to address in future columns. If you have suggestions for other ways you would like to receive my column please contact Phyllis at ely@penfield.org.

Until next week...enjoy the nice spring weather!

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