The Town Board received some very good news this week as it relates to our insurance coverage for the period of June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011. The hard work of Comptroller Bob Beedon and department heads on a very active risk management program resulted in the same or better coverage while reducing insurance costs for this upcoming period by approximately $38,000.

A special thanks to all town employees for working and driving safely each and every day accident-free, and for watching over our buildings and facilities to ensure all is in proper working order and safe for residents use and enjoyment. Your actions have made a difference in reducing costs to Penfield taxpayers...thank you!

Several town department heads met with the County of Monroe to discuss the “Monroe County Work Experience Program (WEP).” The program is designed to improve the job readiness of participants through actual experience. It is a great opportunity to help public assistance recipients gain work experience and build a resume.

Why is Penfield considering becoming a WEP Sponsor?
- Additional hands to help with work tasks without any monetary commitment
- There is a diversity of short term positions
- The program is able to meet our needs with flexible hours/days/evenings
- It is an opportunity to give someone a hand up
- It allows a broader feed pool for potential future employees
- It is the right thing to do

I will keep you updated as how the program is working in future columns.

The Victory Garden on Five Mile Line Road is beginning to “bloom.” This project began more than a year ago and now boasts 72 Penfield residents growing their own organic vegetables, flowers, and herbs for their own consumption and for the needy in our community. The Victory Garden turned a 3.3 acre parcel of Town property into an active and educational mini farm. This truly connects to Penfield’s rich agricultural heritage.

Keep an eye on the website (www.penfield.org) to follow images of how the garden takes shape over this growing season.

I recently had the great pleasure of attending the Penfield Symphony Orchestra’s concert Celebrating Penfield’s 200 Years which featured local resident Kenneth Grant (basset clarinet) as well as a visual presentation that included a montage of photographs of past and present Penfield. Our Community is fortunate that the PSO has brought music to our residents and the greater community for 54 years.

I would like to recognize and thank the PSO Board Members, Music Director David Harman, and Historian Kathy Kanauer for their collaborative and very innovative program honoring Penfield’s Bicentennial.

Earlier I mentioned Penfield’s rich agricultural heritage; we also enjoy a rich musical heritage. Over the next several months the Town Board will roll out a program entitled “TAKE NOTE OF PENFIELD” that will recognize local musicians that live and work in our Community. Stay “tuned”!

Lastly, I attended the State of the County Address; I am pleased to report that despite the inabilities of the State and Federal governments to control spending, cut costs, and deliver a realistic and on-time budget, County finances are stable. The County Executive is dedicating her energy to creating and retaining jobs for the County short-term and long-term. Economic Development, jobs, and lower cost of government is what I hear about on a regular basis as I speak with residents. To download a copy of the County Address go to www.monroecounty.gov/executive-speeches.php.

The Town Board and I will continue to do our part by looking for ways to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and maintain services to you, the taxpayer.

Until next week…

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