It has been brought to my attention that Davey Schaum-Bartocci of Penfield was the first place winner of the “Stock-East Division” sponsored by the Greater Rochester Soap Box Derby. Davey was contending for another chance to attend the World Championships in Akron, Ohio which will be held on July 23. Second place was not good enough to qualify, he had to be the local champ to be eligible, and Davey won every race in all the brackets. Davey is very honored and proud to be sponsored by the American Legion Cottreal Division of Webster and his car displays the American Legion logo. For more information about the Greater Rochester Soap Box Derby, please log onto [www.grsbd.com/local_race.htm](http://www.grsbd.com/local_race.htm). Congratulations Davey on your local win and good luck in Ohio!

The 2012 Town Budget process has begun with the submission of the proposed budgets by all the department heads. I will next sit with the comptroller and each department to review the data to begin to shape the “tentative” budget which I will present to the town board on September 7. The board will then take the next month to review expenditures and revenues proposed and make adjustments to ready the budget for a public hearing on October 5. The 2012 budget is scheduled to be adopted by October 19. Over the next several months I will give you regular updates as to how things are shaping up, the impact on the budget from trickle down costs that will be levied by New York State and any other major changes.

I have been reviewing the legislation passed by New York State on the property tax cap and mandate relief with cautious optimism. This is something that has been discussed for decades; however, nothing has really materialized. The devil is always in the details so you many understand my cynicism until all the pieces come together and are understood. If it is as good as the media and the State communicators lead you to believe, it will be a welcome improvement to local government for our future budgets! If not, it will be yet another Albany smoke and mirrors magic show. My measures are very simple and fundamental: Does the plan reduce costs coming to the municipalities from the State thus helping us to reduce costs to the taxpayers? Does it assist in cutting overall spending? Does it encourage businesses to come and stay in New York? Time will tell!

The NYS Department of Transportation recently held a public information meeting to review the Rt. 441 resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation project from Dublin Road east to the county line. Approximately 50 residents attended to review plans in an open house setting and to hear a formal presentation by the design engineers. There certainly were more questions then answers in this preliminary design phase. Residents were encouraged to take a comment sheet with them and return it by July 15. We have posted this comment sheet on our website under “quick links” on the home page if you would like to offer up any thoughts or comments. It was agreed that future public information meetings would be held on this subject. As we become aware of those meetings, we will share on PCTV channel 12 and on the website at [www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org).

I would like to close my column this week by recognizing a town employee who I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing and working with for more then three decades—that person is Laura Cheney. Laura recently retired as our Assistant Recreation Director after providing 32 years of dedicated service to our great community of Penfield. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our entire staff and all of the residents of Penfield to thank Laura for every person she has touched in such a positive way over the years. You will be missed but never forgotten. Best wishes on a long, healthy, and well deserved retirement…thank you for your service!

I look forward to seeing you out and about in the Town.

Tony

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