This week’s shout-out goes to the Penfield Recreation, Penfield TV, and Public Works Departments for their efforts in a very successful Fourth of July parade and fireworks. The weather was fantastic! Many residents have sent notes commenting on the parade, music, and food, and the fireworks were a hit for a crowd of almost 15,000 attendees. I would also like to recognize and thank the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department, the New York State Police, the Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance and the Penfield Fire Company for supporting the event and keeping everyone safe. It was a wonderful community event!

In this week’s Farm Market/Garden Center series, I would like to highlight Bauman’s Farm Market and Greenhouses located at 1340 Five Mile line Road. Serving the area with fine fruits, vegetables and more since 1908, you would be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn’t know Bauman’s. They farm land in Penfield and Webster and employ local, hard-working people to harvest, stock and help you out. They have greenhouses that offer fresh plants from opening to closing (May to December). Let’s not forget that each winter they offer a wide variety of precut Christmas trees, as well as offering “u-cut” fields to those that like to carry on the wonderful tradition of cutting their own Christmas tree! Bauman’s has seasonal offerings and summer is the time to think about sweet corn, squash, broccoli, peaches, and cauliflower. They also offer pick-your-own peas. For more information about Bauman’s and what products and services they provide, please visit them online at www.baumansfarmmarket.com…and remember to shop locally, it does make a difference for the entire community!

The recent Pharmaceutical Waste Collection held at Wegmans and sponsored by the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services was a big hit; however, I have had several calls and inquiries from residents saying that they were unable to attend and were asking about other opportunities in the future. I wanted to remind everyone that ecopark now accepts household hazardous waste and pharmaceutical waste two days per week (Wednesdays, 1 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Appointments are required. This gives Monroe County residents the opportunity to properly manage these materials twice-per-week instead of just two times each month! For more information, please visit their website at www.monroecounty.gov and click on “ecopark” on the left-hand column.

There are still many opportunities to participate in our various recreation programs for youth, adult, and family wellness, not to mention special events at the amphitheater and the library. For more information, please visit our recreation website at www.penfieldrec.org for details and to register.

We have started the 2016 budget process with all of the department heads. Over the next several months we will be reviewing their draft 2016 Priorities and Goals and budget submissions as I prepare a tentative budget for the Town Board, due out shortly after Labor Day. Over the next several weeks I will keep you posted on how things are developing, as well as the hurdles we are seeing from Albany and Washington and their impacts on our local budget.

I close this column recognizing the Town’s Comptroller Bob Beedon who will be retiring on July 17 after 32 years of service to Penfield. Bob came to Penfield with experience in the banking industry, as well as municipal finance. Bob has served under seven different town supervisors with distinction. He helped to improve our credit ratings, introduced important policies and procedures to ensure proper fiduciary controls, updated the financial control software, served on statewide financial committees, and has been recognized as a financial leader across the region and the state. The town offices will be quieter without Bob’s robust laughter and “get-it-done” attitude! We take great comfort in knowing he is leaving the town’s finances as one of the leaders across the county. Bob, thank you for all you have done for the residents of Penfield, on behalf of the Town Board and entire community of Penfield we wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement…great job sir!