First things first - as promised in last week’s column, I will give a brief snapshot on the budget process each week until the budget is adopted in October. I have met with all the department heads on their initial budget submissions for 2011. This first round roll up shows a slight increase in spending for 2011. The Comptroller and I will be further reviewing the submitted data, as well as the anticipated revenue for next year, to ensure a fiscally responsible budget with controlled spending for our residents, which keeps our tax rate one of the lowest in the county. While we cannot control or fix the dysfunctional state or federal governments, locally we can make the hard decisions to reduce the size of government and maintain necessary services for our residents.

After more than six months, the Harris Whalen lodge renovation has been completed through the great efforts of the Town’s Parks and Facilities team. The existing structure was more than 35 years old and very outdated and inefficient. The renovation included making the facility more handicap friendly, improved energy efficiency, and created more than 300 square feet of additional usable space. The permeable pavers leading up to the front door and around the building are a new green material that takes the roof and downspout water and returns it to the groundwater, rather than running off to the storm sewers. All of the project materials were financed through incentive zoning funds from the Arbor Ridge development on Fellows Road. I would like to recognize all of the Parks and Facilities team for their efforts…thanks guys!

The Penfield Arts Center will be hosting a Penfield-themed exhibit entitled “Artistic Impressions of Penfield: A Bicentennial Celebration,” which will run from July 28 – September 24 at the Penfield Arts Center’s RepARTee Gallery, 2131 Five Mile Line Road. Please log on to www.penfield.org and click on Bicentennial 2010 for more information on this wonderful event. (The opening reception is Friday, July 30, 6:30-8:30 PM.)

Mark your calendars and save the date…Fall Drop-off 2010 will be held Thursday, October 14 through Saturday, October 16 at the Penfield Highway Garage, 1607 Jackson Road. The formal notice will be on the back page of the Pen-Rec Brochure, due out in mid-August. Also, the website will contain additional information and details as we get closer to the event.

Homearama, an annual event sponsored by the Rochester Home Builders’ Association, is scheduled for August 14–22 in the WaterSong community in Penfield, located off Five Mile Line Road, north of Plank Road. Five homes are featured at this event, which will also include 60 vendors to provide information on energy efficiency, landscaping products, home improvement, financial services, décor, and more. New this year will be wine tastings each day featuring New York State wineries, demonstrations by area culinary professionals, and a variety of bands playing for charity. For additional details on this wonderful event, visit www.rochesterhomebuilders.com.

As noted above, the Pen-Rec Brochure will be in your mail boxes within the next several weeks. This brochure will highlight all of the fall and early winter programs offered by the Penfield Recreation Department and the Library. Please review all of the program offerings and keep the brochure close at hand for reference. The information will also be listed on the Town’s website at www.penfield.org and click on Parks and Recreation.

There are still many wonderful special events to be held at the amphitheater, which will run through the third week of August. Consider stopping by to enjoy music or a movie, have a hot dog and drink, and just relax. I have attended several of the programs with my family and everyone has had a great time.

On behalf of your entire Town Board and Town staff, enjoy the nice weather and all the activities you have planned…until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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