Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column

Week of July 27, 2015

Last week we said goodbye to Town Comptroller Bob Beedon after a distinguished 33.5 year career with Penfield. Bob came to the Town of Penfield in 1982, having served in the Air Force as a budget officer, at several well-known banks in Rochester, and a local municipality. Bob immediately jumped in to address town finances and ensure Penfield was a leader in Monroe County and New York State. Bob helped the Town of Penfield move from a B credit rating to an Aa2 during his tenure. This effort paid dividends when securing funds for public works projects as Penfield received some of the best rates in the state. On behalf of the Town Board and all the residents of Penfield, I want to thank and congratulate Bob for his service to this community. Bob, you are a dedicated professional with the highest integrity and a good friend. Your many years of service did not go unrecognized and will leave an everlasting mark on the finances of this great community. We wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement, you earned it!

I ask that you join me in welcoming Barbara Chirdo as our new Town Comptroller. Barbara comes to us with more than 20 years of municipal finance experience that includes Human Resources, contract negotiations, shared purchasing/intermunicipal contracts, and public works. She is a recent graduate of Leadership Rochester (class of 2015), an organization that identifies approximately 40 emerging and existing leaders each year and brings them together with key leaders to discuss the most significant issues affecting Rochester and Monroe County. Barbara is a great addition to the Penfield team to expand the leadership for a sound and sustainable long-term financial strategy for our community—welcome Barbara!

In this week’s Farm Market/Garden Center series, I would like to highlight Wickham Farms, 1821 Fairport Nine Mile Point Road. Bill Wickham began growing pumpkins at the age of eight at his family's farm in Flint, New York. After he and his wife, Debbie, graduated from Cornell University, they began growing and selling pumpkins in the Rochester area. In the 1980s and 1990s, you may have seen their red carts at u-pick pumpkin patches in Penfield, Webster, Fairport, Victor and Stanley. Since that time, they have concentrated their efforts on expanding the Route 250 farm that has made their farm one of Rochester’s top places to take the kids. Bill and Debbie established an active Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in 2012 that has become popular among people who want to eat seasonal, locally grown food. The basic idea of a CSA is that a farmer offers shares or memberships to the public and members receive a portion of each harvest throughout the farming season. Wickham Farms is much more than pumpkins and CSA—they also offer plants, gifts, ice cream and family fun with batting cages, u-pick, birthday parties, a bounce pillow, and more. For more information about Wickham Farms and the products and services they provide, go to www.wickhamfarms.com...and remember to shop locally, it does make a difference for our entire community!

Important Dates and Events in History: August 2, 1964 – US Destroyer Maddox is attacked in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin, beginning America’s major involvement in the Vietnam War; August 4, 1790 – US Coast Guard established; and August 5, 1917 – The United States National Guard is established.

Until next week...enjoy this wonderful stretch of summer weather!

Tony

supervisor@penfield.org