Department of Public Works crews have completed the town’s annual oil and stone program for 2013. Our goal is to perform this maintenance on 10 percent of our road systems each year. The concept is similar to sealing our own driveways every few years to help prolong pavement life. DPW crews will make several passes to sweep up any excess or loose stone over the next several weeks. Thank you for your patience!

I would like to recognize our employee Safety/Risk Management Committee members for their hard work over the past year. At a recent meeting with representatives from the Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA), the Town of Penfield’s workers’ compensation provider, we were informed that our costs are the lowest since 2007. So what does this mean? From my perspective there are two very important measures. First, employees are working safer and going home safer. I say to town employees on a regular basis, “I want you to go home in the same condition you came to work…free of injury or illness.” The second measure is reduced rates and pay-out for claims. This has a positive impact on our budget and costs, which benefits taxpayers. This is truly a win-win!

Budget update…as the 2014 budget continues to take shape I have challenged town departments to continue looking for ways to help offset state mandates that continue to grow year-on-year. This week I am going to pick on pension costs. As I have mentioned in the past, the New York State Legislature cannot continue “kicking this can” down the road. Locally, we look to keep a stable tax rate for our residents by implementing more quality improvement programs, greater use of technology, and improved efficiencies. New York State must step up to address runaway pension costs that will again this year be raised by 21 percent! Let me repeat…21 percent! We have a tax cap mandate from New York State of 2 percent, but pension costs are up 21 percent—this math does not work. The problem I see in Albany is that everyone is working harder to keep their job instead of doing their job! Many of us have been following the recent Detroit bankruptcy filing. I will predict that if the federal and state governments do not get their arms around reducing costs and cutting spending, the act of filing for bankruptcy will be the new norm rather than the practice of filing an annual budget!

I am asked on a regular basis if the last leg of the Motts Lane construction out to Route 441 will be completed any time soon. I am happy to report, after several years, the Town of Penfield has acquired the last small piece of property that was required by the Federal Department of Transportation to finish the project. Members of the Penfield Business Association need to be recognized for their assistance on completing this acquisition. We will be adding the Motts Lane project to our work schedule with hopes we may be able to begin this fall and complete it in the spring of 2014.

This past Saturday, Mother Nature had other ideas about the amphitheater concert series featuring “Gap Mangione and the New Big Band” going on as planned. Creative town staff, a willing Gap Mangione and his team of wonderful musicians, and a flexible audience regrouped and moved to the Penfield Community Center where more than 300 people were treated to a two-hour performance—and what a performance it was! People I spoke with had a wonderful time and appreciated everyone working together so the show could go on as planned.

The 2013 concert series is starting to wind down with just a few programs remaining, so mark your calendars…“Cool Jazz” Tuesday July 30 features the White Hots; “Kids Fest Thursdays” August 1 features Mike Kornrich, and “Saturdays on Stage” August 3 presents a very popular Mr. Mustard Beatle Review. All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. Please note that the band “It’s My Party” will open for the August 3 concert; they will begin at 5:00 p.m.

I hope you have a great week. As always, if you have any topics that you would like me to address, please drop me an email at supervisor@penfield.org.

Tony
340.8631