Update…budget 2011! We continue to make progress on the budget. As reported last week spending is up slightly, we have been able to trim a small percentage off the original submissions without compromising any services at this point. Our next steps will be to review programs to see what we might cut based on participation, community interest, or services offered by the private sector. Any time something is cut it will impact some number of residents. My goal is to be realistic, provide the “required governmental services” for the community, and to balance in some quality of life programs and services our taxpayers have requested in the past. Not an easy task considering most of the residents I speak to on a weekly basis want taxes to be reduced, or at the very least to remain flat.

I’ve had a few reports of Penfield Highway Department equipment being seen at Penfield High School and Monroe Community College (MCC)—what’s up with that? Each year as we prepare our budget not only do we project costs, we also project revenues. Do you know our Highway Department is recognized for its quality work and is a revenue source for the Town? Each year, other entities request the knowledge and services of this department. This year we have been hired by both the school district and MCC for parking lot, roadway milling and paving projects. We provide a high quality job at a competitive price, thus saving taxpayers on many fronts. We continually balance schedules to receive this revenue to help offset our costs to Penfield residents while making sure our own roadway, drainage, sidewalks and other projects are completed.

What is the status of the Comprehensive Plan? Did it get adopted and I missed it? Currently we are on step 24 of a 38-step schedule of required tasks. The draft generic environmental impact statement (DGEIS) public comment period is underway from now until September 10. A public hearing will be held on the Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS on or around August 23. The Town Board is committed to adopting the plan by the end of October. To stay current with the timeline and status of the plan, please log on to our website www.penfield.org and click on “Comprehensive Plan.”

It’s been a while since I mentioned the activities of the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee, so I thought it would be a good to highlight a few things we are looking to tackle to cut costs, reuse, renew, and educate. We continue to look for outlets to give away the remaining CFL light bulbs to Penfield residents. If you have any thoughts or ideas, we would love to hear them. The committee is working on a wind energy and solar power policy; recycling totes have been placed in all our parks; we are reviewing energy audit recommendations; and we have identified several educational opportunities to include leaf disposal, tip of the week, and updates to www.renewpenfield.org. I would like to recognize the entire team for their efforts: Mark Valentine, Susan Foor, Phyllis Ely, Robyn Miller, Sabrina Renner, Pietro Furgiuele, Bob Kanauer, Bob Brumbaugh, Annie McCarthy, and Bob Haak…thank you!

Dates for the calendar: “Saturday on Stage” at the amphitheater, Rick Holland Evan Dobbins Little Big Band August 7; Summer Play “Our Town” at the amphitheater August 13 and 14; Homearama August 14–22; and Bicentennial Art Exhibit at the Penfield Arts Center now through September 24. For more details on these programs and many more going on in this great community, log on to www.penfield.org.

As I have mentioned before, I welcome any thoughts or ideas of topics you would like me to cover in this column. My interest is to give our residents plenty of opportunities for communications about what is going on in the Town. This column is one of several very important forums to share that information.

I look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Tony
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