Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column  
Week of August 10, 2015

It is hard to believe that the 2015 Penfield Recreation six-week “Summer Day Camp” program has gone by so quickly. This year more than 1,000 of your children and grandchildren participated in educational programs, crafts, sports, games, and more. Thank you for entrusting their safety to our staff and program leaders, I know they have as much fun as the kids do during the camp.

At the end of each season Steve Orsini, who coordinates the camp on behalf of the Town, prepares a “thank-you breakfast” for the staff, many of whom were once campers themselves. This is also a time that we hand out awards to staff members who have been selected by the leaders and their peers for making a difference in the kids’ lives each and every day they are enjoying the camp experience.

It is my honor at the start of the summer program in June to welcome the staff, then in August at this breakfast I get to thank them for their efforts this season. As I looked out over the group of about 45 high school and college staff members I could not help thinking about how great these young adults are and the lasting impact they will have on our youngest residents, your children.

The Penfield Day Camp is second to none in Monroe County, and that is because of our excellent staff. On behalf of the entire Town Board I want to recognize and thank all of the staff for their hard work making a difference in our campers’ lives this summer. I hope to see many of you back next year...great job!

In this week’s Farm Market/Garden Center series, I would like to highlight Wilbert’s U-Pick Blueberries and Raspberries located at 1515 Salt Road. And let’s not forget their self-serve sweet corn! A visit to Wilbert’s is a great outing with children and grandchildren. Our daughters and granddaughters find it a wonderful spot to load the refrigerator with healthy snacks. Visit Wilbert’s Facebook page to read the latest reviews—and remember to shop locally, it does make a difference for the entire community!

At the last Town Board meeting we presented a certificate of recognition to Bill Gray’s, located on the corner of Penfield Road and Panorama Trail, for celebrating 35 years in Penfield. During this time, Bill Gray's has been active in the community by sponsoring sports teams, working with the Boy Scouts on Christmas tree sales, and so much more. The next time you stop in for lunch or dinner, please give a shout out to their manager Kim and her entire team to say congratulations and thank them for their service and support to our community.

Last week the Town Board had the opportunity to review the first roll of the 2016 budget. As mandated costs continue to rise (health care, retirement, insurances, and social security) and revenues continue to be reduced from county, state and federal governments, the challenge to maintain a flat budget becomes more difficult. We are in the process of reviewing every proposed increase with a fine tooth comb to make sure there is a good business plan to support proposals. Additionally, we are looking for further reductions that make sense while balancing overall services. Government spending is a topic near and dear to everyone, and your Town Board takes spending very seriously. Managing costs, expanding partnerships where possible, looking for new or expanded revenue sources, and increasing productivity are all items that will help us present the best budget to our residents.

Until next week, enjoy the nice weather. Be well and be safe!