Update…budget 2011! We anxiously wait what the state budget holds for local government, not only was it 125 days late, we understand that they were able to manage a spending increase of 2.4% by pushing more costs and increased fees to towns, villages, and school districts.

At the local level, the government closest to the people is where we can better control costs by providing services truly needed by residents. Mandated and unfunded services and programs will continue to be our challenge. My commitment to all of you is to provide the best value budget with the lowest costs to the taxpayer. As a reminder, my tentative budget will be presented at the September 15 Town Board meeting; this meeting will be broadcast live on PCTV Channel 12 and repeated over the next several weeks. Copies of the tentative budget will be available at the Town Hall and Library.

Several months ago the Town Board held a special meeting to discuss the Sign Ordinance which was adopted close to 30 years ago. Many sections were outdated and for different reasons not consistently enforced. Town staff, upon receiving feedback from the Board and residents at a public information meeting, spent the past six weeks drafting a revised Sign Ordinance. Next steps include a final review to ensure all the concerns and questions raised have been addressed. The Town Board will then schedule a public hearing in late September or early October for our residents and businesses to comment on the revisions. Our goal is to adopt the new Sign Ordinance by November. I want to thank the staff involved for their efforts; this is a very important piece of legislation that impacts most everyone in our community.

Speaking of the Town Ordinance, town staff recently explored updating the entire document by working with General Code, a company that specializes in online code management. General Code currently supports more than 2,700 municipal governments throughout the US, and currently works with all but three towns in Monroe County and the City of Rochester.

General Code was selected to provide a maintenance-free product containing the current and complete text of the Town Code online including an electronic index, bookmarking searches, personalized links, enhanced navigation, multi-code searching, ties to New York State material and much more. This service will give staff and residents user-friendly access to a complex document that at times can be very intimidating. Adding this tool to our business practices will increase transparency, reduce staff time for research and processing of code information, allow builders, engineers and architects to self-serve thereby improving our productivity, and ensure that time-sensitive material is consistently updated. We are hoping to have this up and running by end of year. More details will follow over the next several months. For those who would like to read more about this product, log into www.generalcode.com.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the annual day camp staffer’s breakfast. This program is held the last week of camp and is an opportunity to thank all of the staff members for having such an impact on the youth of our great town. This group of young men and women coach, mentor, parent and befriend our children and grandchildren for the week or weeks they attend the program. A representative from each camp receives a special recognition from their respective group. At the end of the program one staff member receives the “Phil Palmer Award” given in honor of a camper, staff member, brother, and son who tragically was killed at a very young age. Congratulations to this year’s award recipient, Emily Urckfitz.

Dates to mark on your calendar include: Homearama in Penfield, this event ends Sunday August 22; Tastin’ the Blues, September 18 from noon to 4 PM at the Amphitheater; Penfield Recreation Halloween Activities on October 15, 6 PM at Rothfuss Park; and the Heritage Festival, October 16 at Rothfuss Park – more details to follow.

A reminder: If you did not receive your fall copy of the Pen-Rec Brochure in the mail, please contact the Recreation Department at 340-8655 or go online at www.penfield.org.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer with family and friends, hopefully they are as good as the last several months, see you around our great town!

Tony
340-8631