This will be my last column to appear in the Penfield Post for the next 10 weeks in respect of the upcoming election black-out period in order to ensure no one political party is receiving an advantage or disadvantage between now and Election Day. I look forward to this column resuming with the November 10 edition. This column will continue to be available on the Penfield website at www.penfield.org.

Last Saturday more than 100 relatives, friends and residents of the town came together for the Sherwood Fields Park opening and dedication, as well as the dedication of the Don Cranson Memorial Bridge. Cathy Fisler and Sue Froh, daughters of Robert and Polly Sherwood, the former owners of the property were on hand to see this beautiful 82 acres of meadows, forest, wetlands, streams and wildlife with an integrated multi-use trail system be opened for all of our community to enjoy for generations to come. The Cranson Bridge connects two unique areas of the park across the Commission Ditch and serves as an icon of a man, like the Sherwood Family, committed to wildlife and the environment. I would encourage all of our residents to visit this newest park located off Penfield Road (Rt. 441) just east of Harris Road. The entrance is the same driveway as Penfield Fire Station No. 3, so follow the signs to the Sherwood Fields parking lot, and enjoy!

During the year I have the opportunity to meet with Superintendents John Carlevatti from the Penfield Central School District and Adele Bovard from the Webster Central School District and their respective teams. We discuss common school/town issues that may come up during the school year relating to traffic, use of facilities, and more. We believe it is important to have a strong working relationship to assist our residents, and we will continue to keep communications open and regular.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Jim Ferguson, a foreman within our Highway Department for the last 31-plus years. Jim started as a laborer and worked his way up to one of our working foremen. During his career he has touched most every one of our residents’ lives through snow and ice control, drainage improvements, road construction, ice storms and spring/fall drop-off programs. Jim will be retiring on Aug. 25 and will be enjoying the next chapter of his life with his family and spending time on all of his interests and hobbies. Jim, thank you for your dedicated service to the Town of Penfield and all of our residents, you will be missed.

The 2012 budget process is well underway. I will be presenting the “tentative budget” to the town board on Sept. 7. Consistent with the interest of the Town Board and in light of the very difficult economic times we all face, I will be looking to reduce the size of our local government and to absorb to the best of our ability the unfunded mandates that continue to drive up the cost of government. We continue to be faced with double-digit increases in New York State retirement and workers compensation costs; the rising cost of health care; and materials (gas, diesel, salt, asphalt). Our goal will be to continue all essential services for 2012 and beyond. Over the next eight weeks I will have a weekly update on the budget process until the budget is adopted on Oct. 19. Please follow these updates on our website.

The Town will observe the 10-year anniversary of Sept. 11 at Veterans’ Memorial Park. This will include a dedication of a new memorial flag pole, a town and faith community remembrance ceremony, and a CROP walk along the trails of the park. More details and information are coming soon to the Penfield website and this paper.

Important dates and events in history: Aug. 25, 1916 ï The United States National Park Services is established; Aug. 26, 1920 ï The 19th Amendment is added to the Constitution, which is Women’s Right to Vote.

I look forward to seeing you out in the community, please stop and say hello.

Tony
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