The Daytime Education at Recreation (DEAR) series will be holding an open house and picnic on Monday, September 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The program will include lectures, demonstrations, lunch and tea. Come learn about the exciting fall and winter programs planned to see what exciting topics have been selected. Play pickle ball or see a magic show; talk about ghosts, the Civil War and rare coins; take a dance lesson or learn to knit. All activities this day are FREE, the picnic lunch is just $4.00. To learn more or to purchase your lunch ticket, contact the Pen-Rec office at 340-8655 or log on to www.penfield.org. I hope to see you there!

Budget update 2013: All of the pieces and parts have come together to allow me to prepare the “Tentative Budget” for presentation to the town board at the September 5 meeting. Challenges continue to mount as we look for ways to absorb double digit cost increases in most every aspect of the budget, no different than what all of us face in our personal budgets. This year our increases include: a 21 percent pension increase as I mentioned in last week’s column; a 12 percent increase in health care costs; a 15 percent increase in workers compensation costs; and a projected 10 percent increase in general insurance costs. So percentages are one thing; however everyone is more interested in the bottom line. So what is that bottom line? We are looking at increases of approximately $400,000 above the 2012 budget! In order to keep the tax rate flat, we need to absorb this amount and any other costs associated with new projects planned across the community. The primary goal of the town board is to control spending and reduce the cost of government. Once the Tentative Budget is shared with the town board, it will also be available on line for review and comment.

Penfield residents are looking for more opportunities to recycle, reuse and up-cycle! We have recently received many calls with questions regarding what more can be done to recycle materials beyond what we can place in our blue boxes for weekly residential pick-up. The answer is Ecopark, located at 10 Avion Drive near the airport. Ecopark is a joint effort between the County of Monroe and Waste Management. This impressive drive-through facility offers an expanded list of items that can be recycled including Styrofoam, cooking oil/grease, fluorescent lights, clothing, sneakers and sharps and syringes. Ecopark has regular collections Wednesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. all for NO FEE. There are also special collection days for household hazardous waste and pharmaceutical and medication disposal. For more information and details of accepted materials, please log on to www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark. I just did some fall cleaning at home and took a load of items over to be recycled and kept them out of the landfill…a true win-win!

Reminder to all…fall registration for Pen-Rec programs begins September 4. To register you can use regular mail, drop off at the recreation office or register online. Please note we do not accept phone registrations. For more details, please refer to page 49 of the fall 2012 Pen-Rec brochure or log on to www.penfield.org and choose ‘Parks and Recreation’ for the online version of the brochure. You can also keep up with Pen-Rec on Facebook and Twitter: Facebook.com/PenfieldRecreation@Penfield_Rec.

At this time of the year, I always like to give a special plug to all our local farmers. Please stop by and support the many farm markets and farm stands throughout this great community. Everything is ready and fresh. Our farmers are a key business component in Penfield, please support them every chance you get; their healthy businesses provide healthy products for our families, which supports our personnel health and wellness!

Until next week enjoy your family and friends!

Tony
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supervisor@penfield.org