Update on budget 2012 as I work to put the framework of the tentative Budget together for presentation to the Town Board on Wednesday, September 7, we just received notice from New York State that the original projections given to us for the NYS pension plan were under-estimated from the projected 15% we were using for the 2012 budget. Instead, the estimate could be as much as an 18.5% increase for 2012. I have requested all of our departments to tighten up their original 2012 budget projections to help absorb this latest mandate. Local government continues to be sensitive to costs for our residents; however, the trickle-down cost of government from NYS and federal levels will bankrupt us all if left unchecked. My commitment to you and our Town Board is to present a fiscally responsible 2012 budget that manages the size and cost of your local government.

The Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee continues to meet regularly to help absorb this latest mandate. Local government continues to be sensitive to costs for our residents; however, the trickle-down cost of government from NYS and federal levels will bankrupt us all if left unchecked. My commitment to you and our Town Board is to present a fiscally responsible 2012 budget that manages the size and cost of your local government.

Penfield Recreation is beginning a new program this fall called Daytime Education at Recreation (DEAR). This is a brand new program at the Community Center for adults. For as little as $5 a class you can go back to school recreationally! Topics include history, writing, travel, spirituality, philosophy, world cultures and film study. The nice part of this program is there are no tests or homework, just the sharing of knowledge. Check out this program and hundreds of others in the fall 2011 PenRec recreation brochure that just hit your mail box or log in at www.penfield.org to view all these programs on-line. Also, consider joining us at the Community Center on September 21 any time between 10 AM and 2 PM for a kick-off party and picnic for DEAR. Meet new instructors, partake in free short lectures/classes, observe pickle ball demonstrations and afternoon tea. Entertainment will be provided by the Group Therapy Blue Grass Band. Lunch is available for $3 to include hots, baked beans, macaroni salad and a beverage. I hope to see you there!

The annual used book sale, presented by the Friends of Penfield Public Library, will be held Wednesday, September 14 to Saturday, September 17. Pre-sale for members of the Friends of the Penfield Library will be held Tuesday, September 13 from 2-9 PM. Proceeds benefit the Penfield Public Library. Sensational bargains to be had: hardcovers: $1.00, paperbacks: $.50, choose from more than 95,000 books sorted in 50 categories. Audio books, videos, DVDs, CDs, records, games and puzzles are also available. Stop by and spend some time walking the aisles there will be plenty of great buys for the whole family!

Andrew E. Strawhand, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 820, has been in contact with the Town to place a new flagpole and plaque at Rothfuss Park on Five Mile Line Road. VFW Post 820 has been a wonderful partner with the Town of Penfield to ensure that we keep nation’s most widely recognized symbol, the flag of the United States, proudly displayed within our community. The flag is a powerful symbol of Americanism and is proudly flown across our great community of Penfield. On behalf of all our residents, thank you to VFW Post 820 and Commander Strawhand on their very generous donation.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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