Update...budget 2011! As you read this, I am approximately twelve days away from presenting my Tentative Budget to the Town Board for 2011. Once I have presented the Tentative Budget, the budget amount for 2011 cannot be increased; it can only be decreased as required by Town Law. As I have put this budget together, I have struggled with holding the line on taxes, balancing sound fiscal responsibility, and providing the necessary services to the residents of Penfield in light of rising costs. What I know is that there is a need for all levels of government to change the way we do things and the services we provide. There is no evidence this will happen at the Federal or State levels; therefore, local governments must be the leaders. Not everyone will be happy with some of the changes proposed; however, we need help our residents by reducing government at every level.

As I mentioned last week, we will look for every revenue source possible, we will encourage the right kinds of business to come to Penfield, and we will work with other governmental agencies and the private sector to ensure our tax dollars go as far as possible.

How many times a week do you travel through the intersection of Five Mile Line and Whalen Roads? I hope you have enjoyed the Community Garden as part of the Penfield in Bloom Program. This garden has matured so much over the last year and is a real show piece for this area of Penfield. Co-president Laurel Tarcinale shared with me that many local greenhouses were able to donate annuals and some new perennials, adding color and filling in some of the vacant spots. These generous donations by the green houses across this great community do not come as a surprise; their commitment to Penfield is second to none. Please consider supporting these businesses.

On behalf of the Penfield in Bloom Community, they would like to recognize the Nature Craft Garden Club members and spouses who have worked for seven years to provide Penfield residents with a site of beauty at this location. And to the Penfield Business Association, thank you for providing a new bench so that residents can sit and admire the garden as they walk in the area. What a great community effort...thank you!

We recently held a meeting on “Making Sense of Leaf Management.” Very soon this fall chore will be upon all of us in some way, shape, or form. The Town Board wanted to discuss alternatives to disposing leaves in the landfill. There were a number of expert guests on hand to address concerns and suggest options for residents other than the town providing this service. Over the years we have found that half our residents are willing to pay extra in their taxes for curbside pick up, and half the residents do not want the service or costs!

This meeting was presented as a result of an action item from the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee who wanted to provide some history, education, resources, and alternatives to leaf pick-up. I would like to recognize and thank everyone that attended from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County, Waste Management, Beyond Hardware, Home Depot, and several local landscapers. The Town continues looking for alternatives, working with the private sector to provide services at a cost less than what government might spend to provide the same service.

ATTENTION...ATTENTION...due to primary day which is September 14, the ever-popular traveling Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will not be at the Town Hall that day. Please plan on taking care of you DMV needs on one of the other Tuesdays during the month. Normal Tuesday service will resume Tuesday September 21.

Save the date, it’s just around the corner, Tastin’ the Blues, September 18 from 12-4 PM at the amphitheater. There you’ll find great blues music, chili judging, and beer sampling. What a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon in Penfield and to round out the 2010 Amphitheater program at “Pen Rocks”!

Remember the 2010/2011 school year is just around the corner and children will be walking and waiting for the bus, please use care on our roadways for the safety of all Penfield’s students.

Until next week, have a happy Labor Day weekend! -Tony 340-8631