Update on Budget 2012: On Wednesday September 7, I am pleased to present to the Town Board and our residents the 2012 preliminary budget that proposes no tax increase for 2012. The property tax rate will remain at $2.64. Through the efforts of all our departments to streamline, reduce costs and cut spending, we are able to deliver this fiscally responsible budget that manages the size of local government while providing the same services Penfield residents received in 2011. Costs are up from New York State and revenues are down in mortgage tax receipts; however, the Town Board recognizes the need to minimize the tax burden to our residents during these very difficult and unsettled financial times. We will continue to look for ways to manage costs and reduce spending during 2012 and beyond.

Daytons Corners School, our one-room school house and teaching museum which dates back to 1857, received a much needed remodeling project over the summer. While we are not required to have ADA accessible bathrooms in this historic building, our Schoolhouse Coordinator Karyn Turner and I agreed that based on the number of fourth grade students, teachers and parents that attend the school during the year, it was the right thing to do to ensure everyone is able to experience a unique day in the 19th century vintage one-room school. I would like to recognize Dick Gutknecht from our staff for completing the project while keeping the historic significance of the building intact.

I hope you consider joining the Penfield observance of the 10-year anniversary of September 11th. Events for Sunday, September 11 begin at 1:00 PM with the dedication of a new memorial flag pole near the Dolomite Lodge. The memorial is dedicated to those we lost, those who served, and those who carry on. At 1:30 PM there will be an inter-denominational service at the amphitheater, followed by a CROP walk to provide food to the needy. We will be collecting non-perishable food or personal care items for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf. Collection bins will be on-site at the flag memorial and amphitheater. It is important that this day be both a solemn remembrance and a day of service to re-connect Americans with the profound sense of community our nation experienced ten years ago!

The Penfield Business Association (PBA) will be hosting its first golf tournament to benefit the Shepherd Home. Shepherd Home operates under the hospice philosophy, providing 24-hour care for the terminally ill in a home setting. We are fortunate to have a facility like the Shepherd Home in our community, and I wish to thank everyone involved from the PBA and those who will be participating in this event for their support. To learn more about the Shepherd Home and this golfing event, please log on at www.shepherdhome.org.

I am reminded by Foodlink that September is Hunger Action Month. It is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the hunger issues facing our local communities. Foodlink appreciates your commitment to end hunger in our community and looks forward to a month full of advocacy and public support. For more information please visit www.hungeractionmonth.org or www.foodlinkny.org.

Fall fertilizing tips: experts will say this is the most important time of the year to fertilize. Please be sensitive to such practices such as using too much material or spreading fertilizer onto sidewalks or driveways. The nutrients in fertilizers will pollute storm water and will contribute to unsightly algae blooms in ponds, resulting in obnoxious odors when it dies off and decays. Using ZERO phosphorus fertilizers on your lawn helps as well as sweeping up fertilizer that ends up on impervious surfaces helps to significantly reduce the impact to our ponds, creeks, and ultimately to Lake Ontario. For more on storm water pollution and what you can do to reduce it, visit www.H2Ohero.org.

Important dates and events in history: September 11, 2001, global terrorists hijack civilian airliners and fly them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and crash into a field in Pennsylvania, killing 3,000 innocent, mainly civilian, Americans and other nationalities let us never forget!

Have a great week: only nine more weeks till this column will again reappear in the Penfield Post!

Tony
340-8631
supervisor@penfield.org