Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
September 6, 2016

At this Wednesday’s (September 7) town board legislative session Town Comptroller Barbara Chirdo and I will present the “2017 Tentative Budget” to the Penfield Town Board and community. The budget process begins in early June and runs through the third week in October when the town board votes to adopt the Final Budget.

As I have stated before, all of our department heads work diligently to balance increasing costs and the need to be fiscally responsible with no cuts to town services. The budget we will present calls for no increase to the tax rate which currently stands at $2.69 per $1,000 of assessed valuation. We accomplished this with a modest increase to the levy from new residential and commercial development. Further, the 2017 budget is under the tax cap spelled out by New York State.

The Tentative Budget will be available online, as will the Preliminary Budget in a few weeks, followed by the adopted Final Budget in October. Once the Tentative Budget is presented the budget amount cannot be increased; it can only be decreased if approved by the town board.

The town board will hold a formal public hearing on the 2017 Budget on October 5 at 7:00 PM; all are welcome to attend to hear the presentation. The town board will look to adopt the Final Budget on October 19 and file it with the county and state as required by law.

I will close my budget comments with sobering information I recently came across from the Treasury Department: FIRST AND LAST, our nation’s total outstanding debt as of August 18, 2016 was $19.445 trillion. It has taken 295 calendar days (since October 30, 2015) to add the latest $1 trillion of debt. It took our country 205 years (from 1776 to November, 1981) to accumulate our first $1 trillion of debt.

As an avid Rochester Public Market visitor on Saturday mornings, I was delighted to see that a good friend and Penfield farmer Richard (Dick) Hammann was named the City of Rochester Public Market’s “Vendor of the Month”! The Hammann family farm was established in 1905, the same year the market opened, and Dick’s grandfather sold produce and meat that same year. The “Vendor of the Month” award honors vendors who are committed to locally grown products. On behalf of the entire Town of Penfield, congratulations to Dick Hammann. Thank you for all you do in our community!

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Department (MCSD) has seen a recent rash of vehicle break-ins across a number of neighborhoods in Penfield. In all cases the vehicles were left unlocked overnight in driveways. Please help yourself and the MCSD with these two simple actions: do not leave valuables in vehicles and always keep them locked.

The Friends of the Penfield Public Library (FPPL) 40th used book sale is fast approaching. The sale runs September 13 to 17. Please note that the sale on Tuesday, September 13 is for FPPL members only. If you’re not a member, that’s okay—join in advance at the library or at the door for only $5.00. The remaining sale days are open to everyone. Please stop by to see the four rooms filled with over 85,000 books plus videos, music CDs, records, games, puzzles, and computer software. The FPPL are celebrating their 40th anniversary with cake on September 14 at 4:00 PM.

Bring your own bags or boxes to carry your selections. No strollers, food or drink are permitted on the sales floor because of narrow aisles. The sale will be held at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. For more details on the sale, go to www.penfieldlibrary.org.

The Penfield Symphony Orchestra’s (PSO) 2016-17 season kicks off on Monday, October 24, so please mark your calendars. The “Autumnal Masterworks” concert is sponsored by Heathwood Assisted Living and Lindburgers Restaurant. All concerts are at 7:30 PM in the Penfield High School Auditorium. Free rides are available from Lifespan by calling 872-0774. For more information on this concert and all of the 2016-17 season go to www.penfieldsymphony.org.

Until next week, enjoy another stretch of warm weather...we will remember these days in January when the mercury has slipped below freezing!

Tony

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