Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column

Week of September 7, 2015

At last week’s town board legislative meeting I presented the 2016 Tentative Budget to the board and our residents. This budget proposes an increase of five cents per thousand dollars of property valuation, or an increase of $9.00 on a $180,000 property. This is the first time in six years an increase has been proposed. It is resulting from a more than $440,000 loss in revenue and increasing costs in health care, insurances, road salt, and equipment. Once the Tentative Budget is presented to the town board, the amount of the budget cannot increase; however, the board may elect to decrease upon further review.

I encourage everyone to log-on at www.penfield.org to review the budget in full detail. The town board has set a public hearing date for the budget on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall auditorium to hear all interested residents comments on the 2016 budget. If you have any questions or would like further explanation on the current (2015) or proposed budget (2016) please feel free to contact my office at 340-8631 or our Town Comptroller Barbara Chirdo at 340-8621. We would be happy to meet with you at any time.

We recently became aware of a magazine scam that took place in Penfield. A resident had a person knock on their door selling magazines, and the resident agreed to make a purchase. That resident never received their magazines and worse, their check was altered to an amount three times the original amount and then cashed.

The Town Clerk’s Office and local law enforcement want to remind all residents that all soliciting in our town requires a permit that must be with the solicitor at all times. Starting this month all solicitors will also have a photo ID. If a solicitor does not have a permit, please call 911 to report; and never allow a solicitor into your home for any reason. Never pay or donate cash. For the safety of our community, the clerk’s office and law enforcement perform background checks on all solicitors before permits are issued. For more information on this topic and to see current permits, please go to www.penfield.org and select ‘Departments’ then ‘Town Clerk Office’ and choose ‘selling permits.’

My office has received many calls asking if the Town of Penfield will be hosting a fall drop-off event like we have in the spring. The answer is NO to a general drop-off event. We will, however, be hosting our third “Fall Recycling Day” on Saturday, October 10 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the DPW complex, 1607 Jackson Road. The services provided at this event will be brush/branches collection (not leaves); metals and appliance recycling; secure document destruction, and clothing and linen donations at the on-site St. Pauly textile shed. There will be NO ELECTRONICS recycling due to the ever-changing electronics market requirements. Monroe County’s ecopark will accept electronics for a fee, please log-on at www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark for more details.

In this week’s Farm Market/Garden Center series I would like to highlight Gentle’s Farm Market located at 1092 Penfield Road. Gentle’s has served the community for many years and is known for their fresh fruits and veggies and their fresh-picked sweet corn. Please stop by for a friendly chat and to purchase Penfield-grown products…and remember to shop locally, it does make a difference for our entire community!

I am reminded by the Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance (PVEA) Explorers that they are holding a sign-up event on Sunday, September 20 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Penfield Veterans’ Memorial Park open pavilion, 3100 Atlantic Avenue (behind the Penfield Town Hall). Come and find out what the PVEA Explorer program is all about! There will be ambulance tours, EMS drills, equipment demos, and a picnic fare. All are invited!

Until next week…be alert for school buses and our youngest residents crossing the road!

supervisor@penfield.org  585.340.8630  www.penfield.org