Supervisor’s Column
Week of September 12, 2011

Update on budget 2012​ as reported in last week’s column, I presented the Tentative Budget to the town board at our last meeting. I would like to thank all of our department heads, the comptroller, and the town board for their hard work and attention to detail as we put this budget together and kept the tax rate at $2.64/thousand of assessed valuation, which is the same as the last two years. In preparing the 2012 budget, Penfield was faced with a 12% increase in workers compensation cost; a 16% increase in retirement benefits; and a 3% increase in medical costs from 2011. The flat tax rate was achieved by not replacing retiring employees, completing NYSERDA energy audit recommendations, performing more work in-house, inter-municipal cooperation and adjusting Recreation programs to better cover costs. What are the next steps in the 2012 budget process? From September 7-October 12 there is a public comment period. The Tentative Budget will become the Preliminary Budget and there will be a public hearing on October 5 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. From October 5-14 the town board will review public comments and prepare a Final Budget. The 2012 Final Budget will be adopted on October 19 and will be presented to the County of Monroe on October 20. If you would like to review the 2012 Tentative Budget, log on to www.penfield.org and click on the quick link at the top left hand corner of the home page.

ATTENTION: The Annual Book Sale, presented by the Friends of the Penfield Public Library, begins Wednesday, September 14 and runs through Saturday, September 17 at the Penfield Library located at 1985 Baird Road. Pre-sale for the Friends of the Penfield Public Library is Tuesday, September 13 from 2-9 PM. Renew early or join at the door, $5.00 per family. Other hours are September 14 and 15 from 10 AM-9 PM; September 16 10 AM-6 PM (half-price day); September 17, 9 AM-2 PM (bag sale, $3.00 per bag). I understand that there will be more than 95,000 books, videos, CDs, records, games and computer software. I would like to recognize and thank the Friends of the Penfield Public Library for their efforts on this annual event that benefits the Penfield Library with programs and materials.

As part of the Penfield’s observance of the 10-year anniversary of September 11th, the Penfield Town Board held a memorial flag and garden dedication on Sunday at the Jackson Road entrance to Veterans’ Memorial Park near the Dolomite Lodge. This memorial is dedicated to those we lost, those who served, and those who carry on. The dedication was followed by the Penfield Ecumenical Area Churches hosting their 10th Anniversary Service Commemoration and CROP walk for hunger. I would like to recognize everyone who participated in this very special event: we will not falter, we will not fear, we will not fail, we will not forget!

The 2011 National Assisted Living Week (NALW) begins on the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. This year’s theme is Forever Proud to reflect the pride we feel as citizens and active members of the community. The events of 9/11 were indeed tragic, and they also brought our country together. Countrymen helping countrymen and a spirit of rebuilding helped to foster a renewed a sense of national pride for many. However, it is not just national pride that Forever Proud addresses. Pride in a life of work done well, pride in a local community or sports team, pride in family and friends, pride in a skill mastered or being developed. This is a time to celebrate what has been and what will be accomplished. A proud moment or event is something we never forget. This is an opportunity to share these moments with the community and those we love. Assisted living communities around the country will be celebrating, remembering, and showing their pride together. On behalf of all the residents of Penfield, I want to recognize all of the assisted living facilities within this great community and thank them for everything they do each and every day to enhance residents’ lives. NALW runs from September 11-17.

After years of working together, Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care and Country Way Garden Center are now growing together. Laurie and Albert Broccolo have acquired Country Way from Tony and Michele Slominski with the assistance of Monroe County Economic Development Division and M&T Bank small business loan program. Broccolo and Country Way have had a working relationship for many years, and this acquisition is a wonderful opportunity for Country Way Garden Center to continue to grow and support the residents of Penfield and surrounding communities. Small business is a cornerstone of this country and a healthy business makes for a healthy community! Congratulations to both Broccolo and Country Way, thank you for being part of our great community.

I look forward to seeing you in the community.

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