Update… “Making Sense of Leaf Management”! Over the years several citizen committees that have explored the matter of managing fallen leaves. Those who attended informational meetings, along with those who participated in informal surveys, seem to confirm one thing – about half of our residents want municipal leaf pick up, and about half do not.

Those that do want leaf pick up service from the Town generally live in the older neighborhoods with many mature trees; the half that does not want the leaf service – and also does not wish to pay for it – tend to live in East Penfield or new subdivisions with fewer trees. I do not believe that leaf pick up is a service that government should provide. Expensive specialized equipment must be purchased for a very short period of use, and the equipment cannot be shared with other towns as they have the very same needs at the very same time. Additionally, there is a cost to dispose of the leaves after they are collected.

The private sector offers this service for a lower cost and quicker turn-around time than what government can provide. If you do not want to mulch or compost your leaves, consider curbside service from one of many local landscapers. For a list of names and numbers, please log on to www.penfield.org and click on Renew Penfield.

Last week, several members of the Town Board and I attended the Allens Creek/Corbett’s Glen Preservation Group (ACCGPG) “Celebrate the Glen” program which featured guided tours, original artwork, and nostalgic exhibits. The exhibits depicted the history of Corbett’s Glen from Native American times to the present day. While Corbett’s Glen is in the Town of Brighton, there is a spillover into the southwest corner of Penfield. Over the years I have assisted ACCGPG as a Town Board liaison, and I look forward to working with this group and Brighton to identify the best uses for this area.

A recent highlight was a program that I put on for residents of the Penfield Legacy Senior Community at the Town Hall. We spent time discussing the history of the Town, government operations, and future plans highlighted in our Comprehensive Plan. While many have not lived in Penfield before, these seniors are full of life, highly energized, and very interested in the community they reside in. Each time I participate in a program like this, I learn more about our wonderful residents and what they have given over the years to make this community Penfield, and the community of Monroe so great!

This past spring and summer weather was ideal for performing ditch cleaning throughout the Town. At the last Watershed Management Committee meeting it was reported that we were able to clean approximately 42,000 linear feet, or almost eight miles of ditch this year. Through a lot of effort by the Watershed Management Committee, Town Engineer, Highway Department, and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), we were able to correct a number of problems for our farmers and residents. Drainage problems were reduced or eliminated, which helped septic systems, flooded land and properties. The efforts will also improve water quality to meet New York State standards.

Brief updates of items in the works: The Comprehensive Plan is on track, the formal comment period ended September 17 and currently the staff is working on the “final generic environmental impact statement” (FGEIS). The Town Board is looking to adopt the plan at its November 3 meeting. The Sign Ordinance is currently being reviewed with staff and the Town Attorney; it is the intent to schedule a public hearing in November or early December for the residents to comment on proposed changes. Adoption will be after the first of the year. The Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee continues to look at wind/solar power policies, educational opportunities, and recycling and reusing programs. The 13 Town/Village Health Care Consortium will be reviewing quotes received from the major health care providers next week. More detailed information will be shared on this opportunity to better control health care costs.

Lastly, a friendly reminder to check out the latest Recreation Brochure mailed to your homes several weeks ago. It is also available online at www.penfield.org so you can see all that is available for our youth, teens, adults, and families. There are many great programs and information, this brochure is a great resource.

Until next week, be safe and be well! -Tony, 340-8631