Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
Week of September 29, 2014

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT, PREVENT BULLYING NOW! Last weekend I was invited to an amazing event at Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute located in Panorama Plaza to support their “bully busting” program, and more importantly, to support the students. I joined many local teachers to break a board as part of program that taught students to protect themselves from bullies. More than 100 children participated in a bully prevention movie, role playing, and a detailed lecture about how to deal with bullies. I am so impressed with all the teachers who took time out of their weekend to participate and their commitment to “bully busting” in our community—they are all great role models. I also want to recognize and thank Master Kim and his staff for all they do in the Penfield community. His commitment to our youth is second to none with the many classes, after school programs, fun camps, and more that he offers. I have had first-hand experience with Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute by watching both our grand-daughters gain confidence and grow their character, which will help them and all the students of the institute become future leaders. To learn more about the wonderful programs and to see the teachers break their boards, log on to www.masterkims.com.

Influenza is a respiratory infection that can cause serious complications, particularly in young children and older adults. Flu shots are the most effective way to prevent influenza and its complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months of age or older be vaccinated annually against influenza. Please consider getting a flu shot over the next few weeks to help protect you and your family from the upcoming flu season. Be well!

The Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) is updating its Regional Trails Initiative. This plan spans nine counties and will identify proposed trail projects and policies that improve trail connectivity, safety, and accessibility. Public input is crucial to shaping the planning process, and they are requesting that you complete a short survey regarding existing issues and opportunities. To participate, go to the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/trail_user_survey, and the project website at http://www.regionaltrailsupdate.org/. GTC has a goal of 1,000 responses to the survey, thank you in advance for your help.

The Town of Penfield recently received a very positive report from Moody’s Investors Service, the organization that establishes our credit rating. Moody’s affirms Penfield’s Aa2 credit rating, which is one of the highest in Monroe County. The purpose of this recent review is connected to a large sanitary sewer project the Town of Penfield plans to undertake in 2015. Moody’s not only studied the proposed improvement bond, they also reviewed all town finances. In the report Moody’s stated, “the Aa2 rating reflects well-managed and healthy finances as evidenced by strong liquidity and reserve levels, a moderately-sized suburban tax base favorably located within the Rochester metropolitan area, modest debt profile, and manageable net pension liabilities. The positive outlook reflects the recently improved financial position characterized by robust liquidity and reserve levels.” I would like to recognize all town staff and Penfield Town Board for managing Penfield’s finances to maintain this Aa2 rating.

I want to give a special “shout out” to the Penfield Girls and Boys Cross Country teams who volunteered to support the MVP Health Care, Rochester Marathon (Half Marathon /Relay) on September 21. Participants were quoted as saying, “The Penfield XC Water Station was one of the most enthusiastic I have ever seen, anywhere…simply sensational!” Great job to the Penfield XC teams, you represent your school and town very well.

Until next week, enjoy the wonderful fall weather, consider getting a flu shot, and always consider shopping locally—our many local farmers are offering great deals on fruits, vegetables, pumpkins and more!

Tony