The combination of the recent rain events and falling leaves has caused a lot of localized flooding around due to clogged catch basins. With more than 2,000 catch basins throughout the town of Penfield, it is impossible for our Highway Department to visit each site during heavy rains. To help improve drainage for neighborhoods, we ask residents with a catch basin in front of their home to please consider checking the grate for debris and clearing it away so the drain will function as designed. If it seems to be more of a problem than just leaves or debris on the grate, please call the Highway Department at 340-8710 to report the problem and a representative will investigate and work to correct the problem. Also, if you happen to notice a serious catch basin blockage on any street in town, please call the Highway Department. Thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

The rain on Saturday did not discourage residents for participating in the Penfield Rotary & Penfield Recreation community bike drop off—216 bikes were collected and donated to “R Community Bikes, Inc.” What a wonderful job by everyone involved! We have been asked by “R Community Bikes” to collect bikes during the Town’s Fall Drop-off event running next week, October 13-15. So if the weather kept you in on Saturday, there is still a chance to donate those bikes!

Also on Saturday, I was on hand for the annual “Outstanding Asset-Builder Award” program sponsored by the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau and the County Executive. I am honored to report that I received an award, as well as your entire Town Board, for recognition of the outstanding efforts to build assets for healthy youth and families in our community. Several other groups and organizations within the town also received awards including: VFW Post 820, Penfield Little League, Penfield High School Robotics Club, Penfield Rangers, Penfield Strikers, Penfield Youth Football & Cheerleading, Penfield Youth Lacrosse, Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis, Penfield Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Kids Miracle Making Club, Penfield Library, Penfield Community Garden and Bernadette Marconi. Congratulations to all and thank you for everything you do for our youth. To steal a quote from the County Executive, “…the overall county population is made up of 33% youth; they are 100% of our future!”

The Town Board will hold a public hearing on the 2012 Town Budget on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 PM. We welcome all to attend to hear an overview of the budget and ask questions. The 2012 budget keeps the tax rate the same as the last several years at $2.64 per one thousand dollars of assessed value of your property. I wish to thank all of our department heads for their attention to detail to help reduce spending and by cutting costs of government operations.

As the weather starts to turn a bit nasty and you are not able to spend as much time outside, consider going in where it is warm and dry to participate in the great programs offered by the Penfield Library. There are many programs to choose from for every member of the family, including lectures, book clubs, concerts, story-times, a family game day and so much more. Please consult your Penfield Recreation Brochure or log on to www.penfield.org and click on Penfield Library—you will not be disappointed.

Mark your calendar for the “Historic Ghost Walk” and “Family Halloween Fun & Frankenstein’s Taco Dinner” on Friday, October 14 starting at 6 PM. Dinner runs from 6-7:30 PM, advanced ticket prices are $4 per person or $10 per family of 4 or more, children under 3 are free. (“Day of” prices are $6/person and $12/family). Tickets are required for dinner and for the Ghost Walk. Ghost Walk tickets are $5 per person and reservations can be made ahead of time by calling 340-8655. All the games, crafts, trick-or-treat, hayrides and more are free. I look forward to seeing you there; it will be a wonderful family event.

Please note that all Town Offices will be closed on Monday, October 10 for Columbus Day. This reminds me of an important date and event in history…October 12, 1892 — the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag” was first recited by millions of school children across America as part of the first “Columbus Day” celebration.

Town Offices will re-open on Tuesday, October 11 and the weekly mobile DMV will be open as usual from 10 AM-3:30 PM.

Enjoy your week and I look forward to seeing you out in this great community of Penfield!

Tony
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