Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
October 22, 2018

Attention fans of the Penfield Public Library...there is an opening on the library’s nine-member Board of Trustees due to the retirement of a longtime board member. Board of Trustee members are responsible for crafting a strategic plan and vision in conjunction with library personnel, developing and reviewing policies, reviewing and approving the budget and financial matters, and communicating with the community and local legislators.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month in the Ruth Braman Room of the Penfield Public Library. Meetings are open to the public and they usually end by 9:00 PM. Residents of the town of Penfield interested in applying for the Penfield Public Library Board of Trustees must submit a letter of interest and a resume to Chris Fluit, Personnel Committee Chairman, Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road. Applications must be received by November 10, 2018. Interviews will be scheduled for late November and the new trustee will begin their term in January 2019.

The Town Board adopted the Final 2019 Budget at the October 17 legislative meeting. The final budget, including special districts, is $20,259,606, an increase of $1,120,212 from 2018. The Town Operating Budget, without special districts, is $17,300,547. With this budget, the 2019 town tax rate is $2.78 per $1,000 of assessed property value, an increase of approximately 9 cents from 2018. (At this tax rate, a property in Penfield with a valuation of $190,000 will pay $528.20 for general governmental services, which is an increase of $17.10 over last year.) Once again, the town tax levy increase is below the increase allowed by the New York State tax cap. As of October 19, print copies of the Final 2019 Budget are available at the Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road or by contacting the Office of the Comptroller in the Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue. The Final Budget is also available online at www.penfield.org (go to ‘Quick Links,’ ‘Town Budget’).

Say NO to bullying! Over the weekend I had the honor of joining more than 50 principals, teachers and other educators at Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute (located in Panorama Plaza) to break a board in support of their annual “bully busting” program. More than 175 students were in attendance to learn about this very important topic. They watched a bully prevention movie, participated in active role playing, and listened to a detailed lecture about how to deal with bullies.

I was so impressed with all the teachers who took time out of their weekend to participate. They have made a commitment to “bully busting” in our community—and 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 a benchmark in Penfield and across this county with the many classes, after school programs, fun camps, and more that he offers. As a grandfather, I have had first-hand experience with Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute by watching both our granddaughters gain confidence and grow their character, which will help them and all the students of the institute become our future leaders. To learn more about the wonderful programs and to see the teachers break their boards, log on to www.masterkims.com.

As the Shadow Pines Land Use Committee prepares for a November 13 public information meeting to listen to residents’ thoughts and ideas for future use and development of the property, we have developed a “public input page” on the town website for those unable to attend the meeting to offer up their input and feedback. The link is now available in the quick links at www.penfield.org. All resident input will be valuable to the committee as it looks to make recommendations to the town board by the end of the first quarter of 2019. Thank you in advance for participating in this very important process.
The Town’s employee wellness team would like to remind everyone of the importance of getting a flu vaccination. The flu shot works because it prompts your immune system to produce antibodies. In turn, these antibodies help the body fight off the types of flu virus that are present in the vaccine. After receiving the flu shot it takes about two weeks for these antibodies to fully develop. The shots are not 100 percent effective in preventing the flu; however, they are the most effective method to protect against this virus and its related complications. Here is hoping for a season free of the flu!

Until next week, here’s a reminder from our Fire Marshal’s Office...October is National Fire Prevention Month, please make sure to replace batteries in smoke alarms twice a year. A good reminder is to change the batteries when the time changes in the spring and fall. This includes alarms wired directly into your ceiling because they will operate the smoke alarm by battery during a power outage. Also replace smoke alarms every 8 to 10 years to ensure the highest level of safety for your family.

Tony

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