At last week’s Town Board meeting, the board adopted the 2020 Final Budget; with this budget the tax rate remains at $2.78 per $1,000 of assessed property value, the same rate as 2019. Eight cents of every tax dollar goes towards general governmental services that includes snow plowing, library, recreation, sidewalks, parks, open space, street lighting, and more. A property in Penfield with a valuation of $190,000 will pay $528.20 for these services.

Penfield’s property tax rate remains one of the lowest of the 19 towns in Monroe County. The town general taxes continue to account for 8 percent of each tax dollar. County taxes account for 24 percent and school taxes account for the remaining 68 percent.

Print copies of the 2020 Final Budget are available at the Penfield Public Library or by contacting the Office of the Comptroller in the Penfield Town Hall. The Final Budget is also available online at www.penfield.org (go to “Quick Links”).

I received the following important article regarding Halloween safety from Syed Ahmed Mustafa, MBA, President, Board of Directors NYS-EMT Paramedic, Northeast Quadrant Advanced Life Support and Webster Emergency Medical Service; please take note:

“As we approach Halloween 2019, area first responders would like to remind parents and guardians of some basic tips to ensure a safe and pleasant Halloween. The first thing we think of when considering Halloween Safety is costumes. Please make sure that costumes fit the trick-or-treaters appropriately. It is important to ensure that masks allow for good vision, legs are the appropriate length to prevent trip hazards and any make-up worn is from a reputable source so that no skin reactions take place. If kids are using bags, make sure the bags are manageable in size and have good handles so the children don’t trip over them.

Another point to think about is making sure that costumes can be seen by others, especially automobile drivers. Tying a glow stick or two to a costume or giving each child a working flashlight is a great idea. It is also important to make sure a responsible adult is with kids, especially young ones or those in busy neighborhoods, to ensure they stay out of traffic and that passing cars slow down as they go by.

Costumes bought at stores should be safe. However, each year children come home with reactions from masks or make-up. If your child is sensitive to latex or certain cosmetics, please read packaging labels before you dress your kids up. In the event of a reaction, please call your pediatrician, or, if it is severe, 9-1-1.

Besides dressing in ghoulish costumes for the evening, one of the highlights of Halloween is getting candy. It is important that children and adults look at the candy and treats prior to consuming them. First, any packaged candy should be checked to ensure that packaging is intact and not tampered with in any way. Any items, such as apples, fruit, or homemade goods should be checked prior to consumption. If there is any doubt about the safety or quality of any of the treats your kids get on Halloween, throw it out. Also, some families will give out pencils, toys, and small candies which can be choking hazards for young children.
children, so please be careful when inspecting your candy and ensure chokables are out of the reach of small children.

When the evening is done, makeup has been washed off, costumes are put away and candy has been inspected, remember that all treats are best consumed in moderation. Don’t let your kids eat all the candy and treats at once, or the day after could be a bad one. Parents should monitor candy consumption to ensure that children don’t overdo it with the treats…the family of first responders wish all of you a safe and happy Halloween!”

Ahmed and many other dedicated men and women volunteer their time as emergency medical services responders to serve the Penfield community. We are fortunate that these individuals give so much back to our community by serving and protecting...thank you for your service! If you have a question about the services provided by Northeast Quadrant Advanced Life Support (NEQALS) please reach out to Ahmed at the office: 585-787-9060 or email: SAMustafa@NEQALS.org.

Last reminder...The 2019–2020 concert series of the Penfield Symphony Orchestra opens this coming Monday, October 28 with “Brahms and Castanets.” This concert is sponsored by Heathwood Assisted Living. All concerts are held at the Penfield High School auditorium and begin at 7:30 PM. For more information on this concert or the 2019–2020 schedule please go to www.penfieldsymphony.org.

Until next week, enjoy the mild weather!

Tony

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