The Penfield Art Association held its seventh annual exhibit at the Legacy at Willow Pond September 25 to October 21. At the closing reception last Friday evening I had the honor and very difficult responsibility of judging and presenting the award for Best Penfield Scene. I shared with the 40-plus members of the audience that preparing the 2012 budget for the town was easier then selecting the Best Penfield Scene from all the wonderful pieces on display. After several visits to Legacy to review the paintings, I selected a watercolor of Repartee Gallery by Martha Sweeney. The Repartee Gallery is the former Penfield Town Hall located on Five Mile Line Road, constructed in 1894. The building is now owned by the Hutch family of Penfield. My congratulations to co-chairs Doris Hooker and Marilyn Nosky, the Penfield Art Association, and the many contributing artists for sharing more than 170 pieces of wonderful art with the residents of Legacy and the entire community of Penfield everyone involved is a winner!

Last week, the Penfield Town Board adopted the 2012 budget. The $15.27 M budget is 1.63% below the 2011 budget and it keeps the town tax rate flat for the third straight year at $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value. Cutting costs and reducing governmental spending is a mandate from our customers, the taxpayers. The state and federal governments will continue with runaway spending and a very dysfunctional approach to budgeting. At the local level, we will do everything we can to manage costs for our residents. I wish to thank town departments, our comptroller and the Penfield Town Board for their attention to detail and ensuring Penfield’s town tax rate remains one of the lowest in Monroe County.

Two events, one day this Saturday, October 29 from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Highway Garage, 1607 Jackson Road the town is hosting Electronics Recycling by Sunnking (www.sunnking.com) and Document Destruction & Paper Recycling by Cascades Recovery U. S., Inc. (www.recoverycascades.com). Both companies have partnered with the town’s Energy & Environment Advisory Committee to provide a free service to our residents. All types of electronics are welcome including TVs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards and more. This is also a great opportunity to dispose of confidential paperwork lying around the house in files or boxes so you can protect yourself and your family from identity theft. Everything will be recycled from this event; I hope to see you there!

I attended the 2011 Annual Penfield Chamber Awards Luncheon to hear keynote speaker Gary Keith, M&T Economist, provide an update on the state of the economy. Awards were presented to honor the Business of the year Dick Ide Honda, and Citizen of the year Channing Philbrick. Congratulations to the entire Dick Ide Honda team and to former Penfield Town Supervisor Channing Philbrick for this recognition.

The Penfield Players have announced their fall production, Strictly Murder. Set in April 1939, the play depicts an English couple living in the idyllic isolation of Provence, far away from the rumblings of the coming war but betrayal, lies, and murder suddenly shatter their peaceful life. This Hitchcock-style mystery of bluff and double-bluff will keep audiences guessing right up to its thrilling, suspenseful final moments. (NOTE: Strictly Murder is a dark, suspenseful play, best suited for adults or mature older children, because of its themes and off-stage violence.) Show dates and times are as follows: November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 PM; November 13 at 2 PM. All performances will be held at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. For tickets call the box office at 340-8655 or log on to www.penfieldplayers.org.

Penfield Victory Garden members held their Fall Harvest Dinner last week. This was the second year of the Victory Garden and the program continues to expand. This year 88 beds were planted along with a children’s garden, and many pounds of fresh vegetables were generously donated to the Penfield Food Shelf. Plans being discussed for next year include the hope of installing a watering system and better use of the compost area with some important firos and don’ts. For more information on how to participate in 2012 and beyond, please log on to www.penfield.org and click on Parks and Recreation.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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