Wow…the Heritage Festival was a tremendous success! After many months of planning, scheduling and coordinating, the Farm Families of Penfield hit a home run in the eyes of more than 2,000 residents and their families who joined the fun at Rothfuss Park. I had the wonderful opportunity to be there for the entire day and I only heard great things about all the activities — and yes, the weather cooperated! It was fun and educational for all ages. Congratulations to everyone involved for making this festival a premier event for the community of Penfield during our year-long bicentennial celebration.

Recently a class from RIT joined members of our Trails Committee at Motts Lane to help build a new trail loop to overlook point off of the existing Honey Creek Trail. They also assisted in some trail maintenance and bridge repairs that were very much needed. Nels Carmen provided a lunch talk covering the geology of Irondequoit Creek. I would like to thank Professor Rob Alexander and all of his students for helping to make our trails system a bit better for our residents to enjoy. Also, I want to thank Jim Britt and Nels Carmen of our trails committee for coordinating this wonderful workday event.

At the October 20, 2010 Town Board meeting, the board adopted the 2011 operating budget. This budget continues the board’s commitment to hold the line on spending and to keep the tax rate at $2.64, same as last year. Our goal was simple, cut costs where possible and assist our residents who are struggling during these very difficult financial times, while maintaining services. I wish to once again thank all of our department heads for their hard work in the budget preparation, our Comptroller, and a very creative and supportive Town Board.

The Penfield Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting last week which featured the Chief Blogger and Social Media Manager from the Eastman Kodak Company to share with the group how blogs, Twitter, Facebook, You Tube, and more are useful marketing tools that can help businesses grow and expand. I continue to be impressed with the information that can be shared that helps support all of our local businesses. As you have heard me say many times…healthy business makes for a healthy community. Please remember to support Penfield businesses.

Speaking of social media, do you know the Town has a Facebook page? Are you aware you can “tweet” with our Communications Team? Log on to www.penfield.org and on the left-hand column click on ‘communications.’ It will bring you to the social media portion of our web site so you can join our many followers to keep track of the good things happening in your community.

The Penfield Players have been a very active theater group for more than 40 years, entertaining audiences within our community. Tickets are now on sale for the performance of “The Sunshine Boys.” Here’s a teaser…Al and Willie as “Lewis and Clark” were top-billed vaudevillians, and now they are not even speaking. CBS requests them for a “History of Comedy” retrospective; a grudging reunion brings the two back together, along with a flood of memories, miseries, and laughs. Please join in on one of the performances that will be held November 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 8 PM at the Community Center. For more details on this wonderful group, please log on to www.penfieldplayers.org and enjoy the show!

If you have not visited www.renewpenfeld.org in a while, please log on to receive the most current information on what’s new, available rebates and helpful tips to save energy. The heating season is upon us and we are all looking for ways to reduce heating costs.

Thank you for your many comments and interest in this column, my goal is to make it informative, educational, and just plain fun. There are plenty of good things going on in our community and I will continue my best to keep you updated and informed.

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