There has been a recent flurry of construction activity along Motts Lane including drainage work with concrete gutters, new paving from behind Signatures-Humphrey House to Rt. 441, and the milling and repaving of Motts Lane from Five Mile Line Road. This long-anticipated project is nearing completion and the road will be opened within the next week once guard rails have been installed and the state of New York has signs off its final inspections. Motts Lane will provide alternate access to businesses in this quadrant of the Four Corners. Great job by internal DPW and external contractors who completed this project to better serve our residents!

Please note, starting Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m., lodge and shelter rental dates for 2015 will begin for online and in-person rentals. The dates go very quickly, so I am encouraging everyone who has an interest to be prepared to reserve that special date for a family reunion, graduation party, or holiday gathering. You must have an active household account with the Town of Penfield in order to reserve a lodge or shelter online; therefore I recommend calling the Recreation Department to set one up before December 4. For more information about our lodges and shelters, please log on to www.penfieldrec.org.

The Empire Center for Public Policy recently ranked municipalities’ websites across New York State and the County of Monroe, including the Town of Penfield, using a 10-category rubric. The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, tax-exempt 501(c)3 think-tank based in Albany. It sponsors SeeThroughNY.net, a transparency website that includes an extensive database of government payrolls, comparative data, and other information. The intent of this project was to promote greater transparency at all levels of government and to develop standards that governments can strive to meet and even exceed. The rubric they used was intentionally tough because they believe that New York’s taxpayers deserve unfiltered access to their data. In the report, Executive Director Tim Hoefer stated, "We hope these standards will help municipalities do a better job of providing basic public information that will help taxpayers know how their money is spent, and how and when decisions are made by elected officials.” The report goes on to say, “The top-scoring local governments were Schuyler County, New York City, the towns of Penfield and Wilton, the village of Rye Brook and Clarkstown Central School District.” I would like to recognize and thank the entire Town of Penfield staff for their efforts in looking for ways to improve and enhance our website on a regular basis to best serve our residents and others who visit www.penfield.org.

The next opportunity to donate blood in the Penfield community is Monday, November 10, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, 43 Gebhardt Road. For more information on this event and others in and around the Penfield community, go to www.redcrossblood.org or contact the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). The holiday season typically has blood shortages and there is a higher need, please consider taking an hour out of your schedule to give the gift of life!

The next Penfield Trails Committee hike will be held on Saturday, November 8 with the Friends of Webster Trails to explore the Gosnell Nature Habitat in Webster. This hike will begin at 10:00 am and is expected to last about 2 hours. Follow the “Hike” signs off of Whiting Road in Webster. While the hike is free, participants are asked to pre-register by calling Penfield Recreation at 340-8655, option 6.

The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) is a valuable resource to those members of our community that are less fortunate. Over the next six weeks there is a higher than normal need for non-perishable foods as they ready for the Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners. Please visit their website at www.penfieldecumenicalfoodshelf.org to view the current wish list of needed items. I would also like to give a special shout-out to the many volunteers at PEFS for their dedication and support to the Penfield community; all of you make a big difference in so many lives each week…thank you for your service!

Until next week, enjoy the last of the fall weather.