This week’s column in the “Penfield Post” will feature the last guest columnist, as the “election blackout” period has been lifted and I will return to my normal routine of writing the weekly supervisor’s column. I would like to thank all the department heads who jumped in to fill the void and provide a wonderful overview of their respective department duties and tasks. However, due to the very positive feedback from many residents, we will feature guest columnist from time to time in 2014 to update the community on special events or other significant projects and activities going on in town departments.

This week’s guest columnist, Department of Public Works Director Ronnie Williams, is covering the upcoming snow season…I know, I know, but it is just around the corner! I want to tie into Ronnie’s snow message by reminding our residents to check your car’s antifreeze; will it handle the upcoming cold temperatures? Inspect your tires for proper tread, replace your wipers, and check your windshield washer fluid level. When was the last time you replaced you battery? Will it make it through another winter season? Consider placing a blanket and other warm clothing in the truck in the event you are stranded, and pack a shovel too. Keep your cell-phone charged and make sure all your emergency numbers are stored in your phone including AAA or other emergency roadside service. For more information and tips on winter driving and preparation, as well as a short video, log on to AAA winter driving tips.

Winter parking reminder: winter parking rules are in effect from November 15 to April 1. No parking is allowed on all roads and highways between 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. to permit our highway crews to safely and effectively plow and salt the roadways. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

I would like to remind all of our residents about the wonderful service the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) provides to the Penfield community, especially this time of year. The volunteer staff is preparing for the Thanksgiving and holiday season for residents who may have lost their jobs, are ill and cannot work, or maybe just do not have the resources to make ends meet. There are three key ways to support this great community effort; you can become a volunteer, you can drop off non-perishable foods, or you can donate financially. For more information please call 234-0799 or email penfieldfoodshelf@gmail.com. Please consider supporting PEFS this year in any way you can, it does make a big difference in so many lives.

I am reminded by the town’s Employee Wellness Committee to encourage all residents that are able to receive a flu shot to make an appointment with your doctor’s office or stop in one of the many pharmacies in town that offer vaccinations. The flu can cause pneumonia, bronchitis, and even lead to hospitalization and death. More than 200,000 people across the U.S. are admitted to hospitals every year because of the flu. That's why public health educators are reminding people of the importance of receiving a flu vaccine. And now, there's an egg-free vaccine for people who previously couldn't get the shot because of allergies. Please consult your doctor’s office with any questions or concerns you might have about the vaccine.

Please take note: rental of Harris Whalen Lodge or Dolomite Lodge for 2014 dates will begin Wednesday, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. You may do this online or in person at the Penfield Recreation office. You will need a username and password to reserve a lodge online. Please make sure to set this up with our office before December 4 if you do not already have one established.

Important dates and events in History: November 10, 1775 – US Marine Corps was founded; November 11, 1918 – The Allied and Central Powers sign an Armistice, ending World War I, now celebrated as Veterans Day; November 17, 1869 – The Suez Canal opens for business in Egypt, linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
340-8630