As I reported last week, the Town Hall auditorium is under construction for the next month to replace lights, add insulation, and replace the ceiling through an energy grant. I have been asked by several residents if the mobile Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will continue to operate on Tuesdays—I am happy to report they will operate every Tuesday during the construction period. Stop in any time between 10AM and 3:30PM to take care of your DMV needs.

I had the honor and pleasure of partaking in a Veterans Day ceremony at Atria Senior Living last week. November 11 was declared “Armistice Day” in 1919 by then President Woodrow Wilson to honor the soldiers of World War I. It was changed to “Veterans Day” in 1954. Veterans Day is intended to thank veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good of all. Caring for our veterans is more than thanking them for their service; it is our obligation to those citizens who have risked their lives to defend our freedom. To the 19 residents of Atria and all the veterans in our great community, thank you for all you have done.

I want to recognize Josh Dillon, an intern with the Recreation Department this semester from SUNY Brockport College, for the wonderful community program he designed and coordinated last weekend called “Backyard 101.” The positive feedback I have received from members of the community has been overwhelming. The face painting, crafts, coloring contest, animals, and more made for a wonderful event for all who attended—a home run Josh! Thank you for your service to Penfield during this semester and good luck on all your future endeavors in the Recreation field.

Our October Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee meeting featured a special guest; Kimie Romeo, a well-known local expert on sustainability, going green, reusing, recycling, energy reduction and more, spoke with our committee regarding ways we can take our efforts to the next level. Kimie has worked for the County and private business, is an adjunct professor at RIT, and sits on the Irondequoit Conservation Board. She possesses inspiring energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge about a variety of local and national sustainability programs. Our committee will continue to look for creative ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle and will keep our residents updated on our progress at www.renpenfield.org.

Our schedules get so busy at this time of the year; we often tend to overlook some important items! So as a reminder to all, it is not too late to get a flu vaccination. For more details on who should get a flu shot, what it protects against and locations for public offerings, log on to www.monroecounty.gov and click on departments, then public health, then flu. Also, when you set your clocks back last week, did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors? I know I did not, and was reminded by our Fire Marshal to take the time to do so. Please do the same in your homes; it could save your life!

We are reminded of a very unfortunate carbon monoxide poisoning event in the town recently and the need to have—and regularly check—carbon monoxide detectors in the home. Effective March 2010, state law mandates detectors in any residence with an attached garage or appliance that produces carbon monoxide such as oil and gas furnaces, gas hot water tanks, dryers and stoves; gas, kerosene space heaters; and gas and wood stoves. Fire and Safety experts suggest placing one detector on every level of a residence, and to test detectors and change batteries at least twice a year, similar to smoke detectors.

I recently spoke with Penfield Librarian Bernadette (Bunny) Brinkman regarding an online customer satisfaction survey the library recently hosted to gather public feedback on library services. Bunny reported a 35% participation rate for the survey—a remarkable percentage! Bunny and her staff will use this data to make a great library even better for residents as they continue to look for ways to enhance and expand programs that benefit all ages. The Penfield Library is recognized throughout the Monroe County system as one of the best managed and most welcoming with a highly trained and helpful staff. The next time you are at the library, be sure to say hello to Bunny and the staff and thank them for all they do for the Penfield Community.

This is my last column before the Thanksgiving holiday; on behalf of the entire Town Board and Town staff, I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving with family, friends, and neighbors. We truly have a lot to be thankful for!

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony,
340-8631, supervisor@penfield.org