I would like to begin this week’s column by thanking Penfield residents for their support in the recent elections. I have been honored to be your supervisor for the last four years, and I look forward to serving you for the next two years. My goals remain consistent—they are to manage costs on all fronts, keep taxes stable, look for ways to provide services as efficiently as possible, and to continue to partner with school districts and local businesses on innovative ways to support our residents. Thank you!

As you can see, the “election blackout” period has been lifted and I am back to my normal routine of writing the 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 to help you better understand town operations. Thanks to positive feedback from many residents on our guest writers, we will continue to feature guest columnists from time to time during 2014 to provide updates on special events or other major items going on in or around their area of expertise.

Last week the local chapter of USA Track & Field hosted the 2013 USATF Niagara Association Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships at Rothfuss Park. This event saw more than 125 students from Greater Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo regions compete in 2K, 3K, 4K and 5K races. Several Penfield students advanced to the next meet which will be held at Slippery Rock University. Congratulations to all those student athletes. This was the largest event in many years, and I’m sure the Rothfuss Park venue had something to do with that fact. I look forward to Penfield hosting these championships in the future.

While it is hard to believe, the holiday season is just around the corner. A very popular event is the Penfield Symphony Orchestra’s “Happy Holidays” concert which will be held on Monday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Penfield High School. This concert is a collection of music for the holiday season and is a perfect way to kick off your holidays. This year’s concert is sponsored by Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. For more information on this event and the rest of the 2013-14 concert series, please log on at www.penfieldsymphony.org.

Speaking of the holidays, mark your calendars for Penfield’s holiday celebration to be held Friday, December 6 at the Penfield Community Center. This year’s event will feature music, games, arts and crafts, special visitors from the North Pole, and much more. More details are available by logging on at www.penfieldrec.org. I hope you see you there!

I would like to recognize our Department of Public Works for going a full year without a lost-time incident. This group of men and women are out in the field every day working on highways, sewers, drainage, and more. They are out in all kinds of weather conditions, work with all kinds of electrical and mechanical hazards, and work all kinds of hours day and night. This type of accomplishment happens with everyone’s commitment to their own personal safety as well as that of their co-workers. Congratulations to the DPW team on this accomplishment.

I close this column on a sad note. Recently, Penfield lost a long-time resident whose family helped to make the Penfield community become the place we want to live and raise our families. Ona Embrey, co-owner of Embrey’s Drugstore in the Four Corners (now Angus Steak House) and Embrey’s Liberty Hollow Restaurant (now T-Bones Restaurant), was a wonderful and caring person who knew everyone in town and was always looking to help anyone she could. Ona’s smile was contagious and I am so glad I had an opportunity to chat with her just a few short months ago about different things going on in town. On behalf of the entire Penfield community, our thoughts and prayers go out to the Embrey family on their loss.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
supervisor@penfield.org