The recent winter weather is a reminder to us all to allow for extra drive time, to make sure all snow is cleared from vehicles (including headlights and tail lights), to give plow operators plenty of room to perform their job, and to drive safely.

You may have noticed fiberglass stakes or markers being placed at key locations along town roadways in subdivisions. These markers are there to help your Highway Department identify the edge of road during the plowing season to minimize lawn damage. Please do not remove or reposition these stakes; they will be picked up in the spring after the last plowing.

The latest PenRec brochure will start hitting mailboxes next week. It is full of activities for every member of the family. Please take a few moments to read this wonderful brochure to see the fantastic program line-up for the winter season. If you do not receive the brochure, contact the Recreation Department at 340-8655 or log on to www.penfield.org to view the entire brochure online.

I was very fortunate to attend a press conference sponsored by Frances and Larry Grossman of Grossmans Garden and Home for “Bringing Families Together a Tree at a Time.” Trees for Troops is a program run by the nonprofit Christmas SPIRIT Foundation along with corporate partner FedEx Corp. Trees for Troops is a perfect way for families in our community to come together to help military families. The program has delivered more than 66,000 real Christmas trees to military families across the nation and around the world over the past six years. For more information on this program, log on to www.grossmans.com or www.treesfortroops.org. A special thank you to Frances and Larry Grossman for their support of our troops!

On behalf of the entire Town Hall staff, I would like to recognize the Wilbert Family of Penfield, owners of Wilbert’s Christmas Tree Farm, for their very generous donation of the annual Christmas tree located in the Town Hall rotunda. Wilbert’s is a local family owned business. Please consider supporting all of our Penfield businesses during this holiday season.

Last week the Town Board held a public hearing on a proposed local law entitled “Dog Licensing and Animal Control Law.” The purpose of this law is to pick up the responsibility for managing the licensing and identification of dogs that was pushed down to local towns by the State of New York as an unfunded mandate effective 2011. As local governments struggle to reduce the cost of government and control their spending, the State seems to look for ways to add costs. This will result in some increase in charges to our residents for licensing their dogs in 2011. It is interesting that while this program is no longer managed by the State, they still require towns to pay them a portion of the fees collected to help their revenue stream—no wonder residents and businesses continue to move out of New York!

Dayton’s Corners School House, an active teaching museum located at the intersection of Creek and Plank Roads, will be hosting an “Old Fashion Christmas” on December 12 from 1-4 PM. Bring your friends and family and enjoy refreshments, decorations, entertainment, wagon rides, raffles, and more. The Schools Coordinator, Karyn Turner, promises everyone will enjoy this bicentennial holiday event. I hope to see you there!

The Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee suggests making the switch to LED holiday lights. They use 10 times less energy than incandescent mini-lights and 100 times less energy than standard bulbs. The initial investment is a bit higher; however, they will last up to 50,000 hours.

The Penfield Trails Committee is sponsoring a free public hike, touring the paths and boardwalks of the Nature Conservancy’s Thousand Acre Swamp Sanctuary on Saturday, December 11. The hike will start at 10AM from the Don Mack Building, 1587 Jackson Road (next to the Penfield Volunteer Ambulance). To register, contact the Recreation Department at 340-8655.

Hope to see you out in our great community!

Tony
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