This week the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) and I have an update on the sewer department’s Maple Park Heights solar pump station. We recently took readings at the solar pump station which has been in operation for approximately 11 months; I will not get into too much detail on the kilowatt hours (kWh) generated to date. We will add more of these details to our website under the section for those of you who like all the “techy” details. Since the solar station was activated we have generated 371 kWh. The annual calculated production was 334 kWh, so we are already at 111% versus what was predicted with one more month to go! With this current output from the pump station, we are covering more than 95% of the power used by another project—the electric charging station located at the community center. Said another way, our power cost versus savings is about equal if you were to apply it with these two projects. I believe this is a great story and one we should look to build upon, balancing costs and overall payback.

This time of the year I hear about different groups and organizations that are working hard to help support the less fortunate in our community. This past week I learned that Atria Senior Living in Penfield has set up donation bins at their facility for both Foodlink (non-perishable food items) and Toys for Tots (new and unwrapped toys). The Atria Community would love to have you stop in, drop off your donations, and wish the residents happy holidays. On behalf of the entire Town of Penfield, a special thank you to Atria residents and employees for helping to make a difference.

I would like to recognize and thank David Schoff Nursery, located at 1450 Marchner Road, for donating the annual Christmas tree for the Town Hall. The 15-foot tree is standing beautifully in the rotunda and will be enjoyed by many residents during the holidays. David, may you and your entire family have a very healthy and happy holiday season. Also, Grace Strong, Gail Trabalzi, Maureen Parker and Donna Guthrie, volunteers from the Creative Gardeners of Penfield, decked the halls of the rotunda as they do each year. These are examples of the very generous and caring residents we have in this great community. Together, the tree, garlands, wreaths and bows have infused the Town Hall with holiday spirit for all to enjoy. Thank you all!

I was recently invited to be a guest judge by the seven Legacy Senior Living Communities for their first annual Legacy Cookie Contest. I was honored to join such celebrities as Don Alhart of WHAM Channel 13; John Burns of Honor Flight Rochester; Donna Dede of the School of the Holy Childhood; Carol DiMarzo of Mark IV Enterprises, and Cheryl Dinolfo, Monroe County Clerk. All seven chefs came prepared with their “A” game and their personal creations were all a hit. While I felt all of the recipes were winners, when the results were totaled, third place went to Michele Lyon from Legacy at Erie Station; second place was Jerry Leiberman of Legacy at Clover Blossom; and first place honors went to Johnny Walker of Legacy at Park Crescent. I know my family will find this hard to believe—I went back to Chef Tony Moringello’s (Legacy Willow Pond in Penfield) tray of hazelnut chocolate toffee cookies several times, including the one I took to go…it never made it out of the parking lot! The Highway Department asked me to remind residents that with winter hours, you may drop brush, limbs, logs and stumps off at the Highway Department, 1607 Jackson Road from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please stop by the office on the way in to sign in and have the gate arms opened.

If you have photos of yourself or your children participating in any Penfield Recreation programs that you would like to share, please send them to srenner@penfield.org. We would love to use them in future program promotions such as our website or seasonal brochure. Thank you in advance!

Important dates and events in history: December 13, 1862 – The Confederate forces win the Battle of Fredericksburg; December 15, 1791 – The first Ten Amendments to the Constitution, know as the “Bill of Rights,” are ratified.

Until next week, enjoy the mild weather, it will not last much longer I’m sure!

Tony LaFountain
supervisor@penfield.org
340-8631