I would like to start out this column by thanking our Highway and Parks/Facilities Departments for all their efforts over the last week of what seemed to be a never ending snow storm. The crews spent many hours to help ensure the roadways, sidewalks and community parking lots were plowed and salted for the safety of our residents. With this particular snow pattern, once we have completed a plow pass throughout the entire town, it needs to be done again! Please be patient and drive with care as the roads are slick with the combination of salt, snow, and blowing snow. There are more winter driving tips on our website at [www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org).

Last week I became aware of a resident at Atria Penfield by the name of Hermeine Bouwmeester, who each year knits more than 300 hats which are donated to a local church. Additionally, she makes baby booties for many of our newest Penfield residents. Hermeine is committed to making this great community of Penfield a little better for everyone. Hermeine, you have a heart of gold, thank you for touching so many lives in such a wonderful and positive way.

The Penfield Chamber of Commerce selected Wallace F. Ashnault as Citizen of the Year and Senior Fitness Productions (Betty Perkins-Carpenter, PH.D) Business of the Year at their Annual Awards Dinner last week. I have had the good fortune to know Wally and Betty for more than thirty years; they are pillars of this community and a great example of local Penfield Businesses that have an impact worldwide…congratulations Betty and Wally.

The annual senior adult holiday luncheon was another success with almost one hundred people in attendance. Music was provided by Mike Kornrich, and the Recreation staff did their usual great job on the buffet luncheon. Each time I have the good fortune to attend one of these events, I learn a little bit more history about this wonderful community of Penfield.

The Town Board held a public hearing on the Sign Ordinance on December 7 in an effort to update a 30-year-old document. Many good comments have been received from residents, businesses, and organizations with ideas on how to streamline the sign approval process and how to reduce the number of unnecessary signs throughout the town. At the next several Town Board work sessions the Board will discuss all received comments and make appropriate modifications to the Ordinance. Our goal is to adopt the new Ordinance within the first quarter of 2011.

It has been a while since I have commented on the Comprehensive Plan Update. At the last Town Board work session, the Board approved the last of the process for completing this plan which includes the final environmental impact statement—the revised plan that incorporates all feedback and comments from residents and the findings statement. Resolutions will be adopted throughout January accepting these components of the process with final adoption on February 2, 2011. It has been a long process to get to this point and I want to complement our staff and residents who participated in making sure this plan is the best road map for development in Penfield over the next ten-plus years.

On behalf of the entire Town staff, I would like to recognize Donna, Grace, and Maureen from Creative Gardeners of Penfield who decorated the Town Hall rotunda for the holidays. These three ladies put a smile on everyone’s face and bring holiday cheer to all who visit the Town Hall over this wonderful holiday season. Thank you ladies for the gift of your time and creativity to our community.

The Bicentennial Committee closed out its year-long celebration of our town’s 200th birthday on December 15 with a thank you reception for committee members, the Town Board, and many residents of the community. It has been my honor serving the town as your supervisor during our bicentennial year. I want to thank Councilwoman Linda Kohl who chaired the committee and encouraged so many individuals and groups to participate in the celebration. Her energy and commitment did not go unnoticed…great job Linda and thank you!

Until next week, be well and be safe…watch out for the black ice while walking and driving.

Tony
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