Week of December 15, 2014

I would like to recognize our Highway and Parks/Facilities Departments for all their efforts last week to respond to the first measurable snow of the season. Crews spent many hours to help ensure the roadways, sidewalks and community parking lots were plowed and salted for the safety of our residents. When the rate of snow comes as it did, combined with the high moisture rate, it is very difficult to keep up with accumulation and the routes take longer to clear. Crews concentrate on plowing all major arteries and the subdivisions follow. With this particular snow pattern once we have completed a plow pass throughout the entire town, it needs to be done again. Thank you for your patience. Please drive with care and allow extra time for your commute.

Another important reminder from your Highway Department: New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and New York State Highway Law prohibit depositing any snow upon the highway or its shoulders. This includes pushing snow across a highway or into a cul-de-sac. Many neighbors complain about this during the winter months. The Monroe County Sheriff Deputies will issue tickets if this occurs. Plow contractors must push the snow only onto a customer’s property only.

I would like to recognize and give a special thank you to the Creative Gardeners of Penfield for decorating the rotunda area of the Penfield Town Hall for the holidays with wreaths, ribbons, and festive decorations. The team of stealth decorators truly operated like Santa’s elves and were in and out of the town hall before we could get their names! Thank you ladies, your work has been enjoyed by employees and the many residents that visit the town hall this time of year. I would also like to recognize Town Clerk Amy Steklof for the Hanukkah display in the rotunda.

Several weeks ago I had a plug in my column for walkers and runners to wear reflective clothing when out before dawn or after dusk. I was reminded by several avid walkers and runners to encourage drivers to be more aware of their surroundings. In this age of everyone being in a hurry and talking on cell-phones and texting, drivers are concentrating less on the road, crosswalks, and stop signs. Therefore, even though reflective clothing is being worn, drivers are not seeing people in the roadway and many near misses have occurred. Further, in this wintry season, everyone needs to be mindful of reduced road surface and high snow banks after a big snowfall. If you are running or walking can you see and can you quickly get out of the way of an oncoming vehicle? If you are driving in wintry conditions are you prepared to avoid people in the road? Let’s be safe this winter.

Penfield Library staff wants families to know there are two exciting programs coming up at the end of the year. The first is Doll’s Winter Tea Party on Tuesday, December 30 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for children K-5. The second is Happy “New Year” Game Day on Wednesday, December 31 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for children ages four and up accompanied by an adult. (Children under four will be unable to attend the program.) Registration for these programs begins December 17. For more details on these programs and many more, go to www.penfieldlibrary.org.

I was recently asked about the 2015 season dates for the excellent Penfield Rotary Band. Mark your calendars for these six Tuesday night programs: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2. All of the performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. You will enjoy joining co-musical directors Howie Rowe and Steve Quance, as well as band manager Nels Carman, Jr. Admission is just $1.00 at the door!

With the holiday schedule the Messenger Post Newspaper will be combining the content of the different eastside papers into one issue for the weeks of December 22 and 29; therefore this will be my last column in print for this year. However, I will still be writing my column and you can find it as always on the home page at www.penfield.org. On behalf of the entire Penfield Town Board, town employees, and the LaFountain family, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a wonderful and healthy New Year. I look forward to serving you in 2015.