The Highway Department asked me to remind residents to place garbage totes four to five feet up driveways, instead of at the roadway, on snowy days. Totes placed at the base of driveways in the snow make it difficult to plow subdivision streets. Maneuvering around totes adds significant time to clearing the route, and totes in the road limit our ability to adequately clear snow. Crews try to have roads cleared in time for people heading to work and school. Thank you in advance for being mindful of garbage tote placement and helping our crews do their best work in your neighborhood.

Recreation Director Chris Bilow received a phone call from the USA Field Hockey Association informing him that Penfield was selected as a site to offer the a “Fundamentals of Field Hockey Program” starting late winter and into the spring. Chris submitted an application to run the program for youth (boys and girls) ages 7-11. As a result of being selected, the town will receive sticks, goals, balls, cones and curriculum at no cost—this is a value of $2,000-3,000. This wonderful fundamentals program will allow us to partner with the school districts and give students an opportunity to serve as volunteer coaches, thereby developing a talent pool for the future. Congratulations Chris on receiving this grant, this program will join the many wellness programs offered by the Recreation Department for our residents.

Mark your calendars for the 2014 State of the Town Address scheduled for Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall auditorium. This is an opportunity for the supervisor and town board to provide a summary of 2013 and to lay out the plans and goals for 2014. If you cannot attend, please tune in Penfield TV or log on at www.penfield.org to watch online.

In recent weeks there has been a rash of fake FBI calls to residents in an attempt to sell home security systems. This telemarketing sales pitch is using a rather underhanded tactic to peddle home security systems. The call typically starts off with an official sounding message implying the call is from the FBI, indicating there have been break-ins and home invasions in your neighborhood. After this initial scare tactic the caller then offers a “free” home security system in exchange for placing a sign in your yard. This is a known ploy to gather information like your name, address and more. If you receive such a call just hang up, do not provide any personal information. If you received repeated calls, please contact the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office to file a complaint.

I would like to give a special shout out to Penfield resident George Steitz. George is a retired physical education teacher and a coach who has officiated 108 local junior high and high school events this calendar year…did I forget to mention he is 89? Remarkable! George, keep it up, you are a benchmark in wellness for us all and you have touched so many lives during your amazing career…thank you!

As we close out the year, I always want to recognize and thank all the business sponsors who support our Recreation brochure, amphitheater series, and special family events including Memorial Day, Independence Day, Halloween and holiday celebrations. You will see sponsors listed in our PenRec brochures throughout the year. If you have an opportunity to visit any of these sponsors please be sure to say thank you for their support. I would especially like to recognize Wegmans for their ongoing commitment to our “community wellness” programs. I have spoken to many residents who have told me that PenRec wellness programs have helped change their habits with diet, exercise, and attitude. To all those supporting businesses, thank you for supporting this great community of Penfield.

On behalf of the entire town staff and our families, we wish you all a very safe and prosperous 2014…Happy New Year!

Tony
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