Mike Cooper, Director of the Penfield Recreation Department, has announced his intentions to retire effective December 31. Mike has been with the Town of Penfield since July 1981. During that time, he has worked closely with staff, residents, school districts, and many community organizations in town and across the county for the betterment of recreation programs for youth, teens, adults and seniors. Mike has the wonderful ability to listen to customers and find ways to meet their needs. He is a dedicated professional with a passion for the health and wellness of all members of our great community. On behalf of the Penfield Town Board and all town staff, we wish Mike all the best in his retirement and future endeavors—congratulations Mike and thank you for your dedicated service to the Town of Penfield.

The 2012 Winter/Spring Recreation Brochure should have hit your mail box over the past several days. Registration begins January 3 for all those great programs. Whether you or your family are looking for aquatic programs or library activities, general community events or fitness, health and wellness, there is a program for you. Please take time to review this brochure or log on to www.penfield.org and click on Parks and Recreation and then choose Programs enjoy!

In the spirit of recycling, the Highway Department will again recycle Christmas trees. Starting December 26, residents are welcome to drop trees off at the Highway Department, 1607 Jackson Road. All trees will be chipped to become part of the mulch provided to residents in the spring for general garden use.

The Penfield Town Board will be holding its 2012 organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:30 PM. At this meeting boards, committees and employees are appointed or re-appointed for the year; contracts are established for insurance and other goods and services purchased for the town; and membership in various organizations and banking and other financial agreements are approved. We always encourage residents to keep current with local government by attending town board meetings or by watching meetings live on TV at 7:30 PM (see www.penfieldTV.org for details). Residents may also log on at www.penfieldTV.org to watch streaming live video of all legislative sessions of the Town Board throughout the year.

The unusual stretch of mild weather has allowed Public Works crews an opportunity to accomplish more drainage improvements, walkway installation in parks, televising of storm and sanitary sewer mains and complete all required OSHA training for the year. This has been a very productive year; I would like to recognize and thank all members of the Highway, Sewer and Parks & Facilities departments for all their accomplishments that have positively impacted the quality of life of our community.

Some interesting facts from the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC): Paper comprises about 40 percent of our waste stream; one person uses approximately 580 pounds of paper annually; recycling paper and cardboard can save between 30 and 70 percent of the energy needed to produce paper from raw materials; recycling one ton of paper saves 380 gallons of oil; and recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees. As we approach the New Year, please consider taking your own recycling habits to a new high as one of your resolutions. For more information and tips on recycling, please log on to www.monroecounty.gov and click on eco park on the left column or at www.nyrecycles.org. A link is also on the homepage of www.penfield.org.

As I wrap up my last column of 2011, I would be remiss if I did not thank all Penfield residents for your support over the year. It has been my honor to serve you and the Penfield community for the past two years as your supervisor, and I look forward to the start of my second term serving this great community. On behalf of the entire LaFountain family, we wish all of you a very safe, healthy and happy New Year!

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