Recently some residents have asked me about the town’s plans for 2014 spring and fall drop-off events because they have heard the program is going away. It is the intent of the town board to continue offering spring drop-off as we have in the past. The dates are Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10 at the DPW facility, 1607 Jackson Road. As for fall drop-off, this past year (2013) we changed the format to a one-day recycling-only event and collected all types of electronics; metals; brush, branches, limbs; provided document shredding with paper and cardboard recycling; and introduced a year-round clothing drop-off shed. We will do the same in the fall of 2014, and the event will be enhanced to include more items for recycling. Fall Recycling Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 4. Please mark your calendars for both events; more details will be provided as we get closer to the dates.

Trails and hikes update…dust off your cross country skis or snowshoes and join the Penfield Trails Committee on Saturday, January 11 at Ellison Park for an exhilarating trip through this scenic park. If there isn’t any snow, no problem! A hike will still take place. Meet at the north side of the parking lot off Blossom Road and look for the hike signs. This event runs from 10:00 a.m.to noon. Please bring your cross country ski equipment or snowshoes. Also, the annual indoor hike, known as the “Hiker’s Jamboree,” is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Penfield Town Hall auditorium. Come meet the staff behind all the various town hiking programs in the greater Monroe County area and see their program offerings for the upcoming year. This is always a popular event. For more information on these two events and many more scheduled hikes for 2014 please log on to www.penfieldrec.org and click on Trails Committee.

Was that special Christmas present this year of the four-legged variety such as a new puppy or rescue dog? Are you trying to figure out housebreaking, socialization, beginning obedience, and more? Don’t fret! Dog obedience classes start in just a few weeks. Puppy kindergarten and beginner dog obedience programs by KB Dog Training are held at the Penfield Community Center gymnasium. For more details check out page 24 of the Winter/Spring 2014 Rec brochure or log on to www.penfieldrec.org or contact Kathy Boone at 880-5746. The LaFountain family has been through both these programs with our “morkie” Lincoln. The classes have made a big difference in behavior, overall training, and our general peace of mind!

Please remember that January 2 is the start of registration for all upcoming recreation programs including summer swim lessons, soccer, day camps, and much more. Register from the comfort of your home and make sure you do not miss out on that favorite program. Many of the program offerings have a reduced fee if you register online. Check it all out at www.penfieldrec.org.

Here is one more reminder that snow plow rules are in effect through April 1. This means no parking is allowed on Penfield roads and highways between 2:00 and 7:00 a.m. so highway crews can safely and effectively maintain the roadways. Thank you for assisting our crews in making the roads safer for everyone traveling to work, school and other activities. And please don’t forget that fire hydrant in front of your home or in your neighborhood. Helping to keep hydrants clear of snow will assist emergency responders and save valuable time if they need access to fight a fire. It is often the small things that make the most difference ensuring the safety of others.

As I write this column that brings us into the New Year, I would be remiss if I did not thank all of our residents for their support over the past years. It has been my honor to serve you and the Penfield community for the last four years as your town supervisor, and I look forward to the start of my third term serving this great community. On behalf of the entire LaFountain family, we wish all of you a very safe, healthy, and prosperous 2014!

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