

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

- Tony LaFountain, Penfield Town Supervisor -



Penfield is a unique community with many parks, waterways, more than 1,200 acres of preserved open space for agriculture, active and passive recreation, a continuously expanding trail system, and a growing bike-friendly experience. The town's Recreation Department offers programs for all ages that support physical and mental wellness, sports development, performing and visual arts, and more. Our vibrant senior population is active and engaged in the community, and service organizations support those in need in our own community and the greater Rochester area. Penfield also boasts a strong faith community, an active arts community, great school districts, a state-of-the-art innovative library, and a solid business community.

The Town Board has an interest to actively brand Penfield as the "Wellness Community" and we have asked our Recreation Department to take the lead on this effort. As I reported in the last edition of this brochure, Recreation Director Mike Cooper retired at the end of 2011. After a several month review of the operation, its needs and defining a strategic direction for the future, the Town Board elected to promote Chris Bilow to the position of Recreation Director effective mid-March to lead the department and the Town of Penfield in this "wellness" effort. I would like to congratulate and welcome Chris to the Director's position.

Additionally, the board has asked the department to create and form a "Recreation Department 501-C-3" for tax deductible revenue; complete the redevelopment of the www.penfieldrec.org website that is dedicated to recreation and wellness; complete an update of the five year master plan; grow and expand partnerships across the town; and aggressively pursue grants to maintain and expand our facilities. All and all, 2012 will be an exciting year of change to redefine the short and long term mission and vision of the department to include "wellness" in all aspects of our programming.

The landscaping around the Community Center has served its useful life, specifically the large pines on the south and west side of the building. When originally planted in the 1960s they were an appropriate size and scale for the facility. Today the pines have matured to the point that they tower over the building and cause us several thousands of dollars in labor and maintenance of plugged drain lines, HVAC repairs and water damage to the roof. Additionally,

these trees are now diseased and they will have to be taken down. The Town Board has been working with our landscaping architect on plans to replace the trees and provide new sitting and gathering areas outside the building. Our goal is to display landscaping plans at the Penfield Library for residents to view and offer comments. We would like to start work this year with a completion date of 2013.

The Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) is working with town forces, LTHS Solar-Penfield; Direct Grid Technologies, LLC; Sunwise Technologies, Inc; and NYSERDA to complete a solar PV net-zero sanitary sewer pump station project. Using solar panels and equipment (all of which was manufactured in the USA) this project will generate all of the power to support this pump station's operations, covering its annual electric costs and making a small revenue for the Town of Penfield. The EEAC is very excited about this accomplishment and is looking for other sustainable programs across the community. Additionally, the 2011 recycling events were a huge success. Spring and fall electronics recycling took in 73,487 lbs (34.74 tons) of materials that were diverted from the landfill. The identity protection of confidential document destruction took in an impressive 4.8 tons of paper.

I am pleased to report that during 2011 there were many town accomplishments including the opening and dedication of Sherwood Fields Park, the completion of more than 70 drainage projects, and the installation of a signal light at the Atlantic and Jackson Road intersection. Town cell phone expenses were reduced by 50% and we continued to reduce energy costs at all facilities. The environmental clean up of the Ruoff park site was completed and we installed the Daniel Penfield statue in the Four Corners. While we accomplished these projects and more, there are always projects and programs that get delayed or are not completed, and we did have several of those that we will be looking to wrap up in 2012 including the Motts Lane extension, an expanded Rothfuss Park walking trail and an environmental cleanup at the Highway Department.

I would like to recognize Bob Ainsworth, Director of Parks & Facilities, for more than 37 years of service to the Town of Penfield. Bob has announced his intentions to retire effective May 1. On behalf of the Town Board, all of the town employees and the entire community of Penfield, I would like to thank Bob for all of his work and efforts to keep our facilities running efficiently, expanding the number of fields for athletic uses and for all the special projects that have contributed to our quality of life in

Penfield. We wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life enjoying family and friends. Good luck and thank you, Bob!

Our community's financial wellness continues to be very solid as we maintain the tax rate at the same level it has been since 2009 (Penfield has the fourth lowest tax rate of the nineteen towns in Monroe County). We continue to aggressively manage costs at all levels and actively work to maintain our Moody's Aa2 credit rating, which is one of the highest in the county.

Business wellness and vitality are a key foundation in Penfield. We maintain regular support and communications with the Penfield Business Association and the Penfield Chamber, two new business areas were rezoned for commercial use on Rt. 441 and Rt. 250, we are actively working on "mixed use zoning" districts, and Penfield TV and our website are actively updating social media and communications links for Penfield businesses. Please remember... "shop locally—healthy businesses make for a healthy community."

I am very thankful for all our healthy community connections that include the Penfield and Webster School Districts, the Penfield Public Library, Friends of Penfield Library, our many service organizations, faith community, Kiwanis, Rotaries, VFW, EMS, fire, sheriffs, senior living, group homes, farmers and agriculture, and our hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Thank you for every thing you do to make Penfield a great community.

The Town of Penfield has a rich history that began with founder Daniel Penfield, who settled this great community on a strong foundation of agriculture, industry, volunteerism, education and neighborhoods. The town was established in 1810, and for the past 200 years it has grown, strengthening all those original qualities. Today, Penfield is known as "a great place to live and raise a family" and is one of the most sought after residential communities in Monroe County.

Penfield is more than a place to live—it is a community of individuals who choose to make Penfield their home. It is written that the policy of Daniel and Mary Penfield was one of an "open house and open heart." That policy has only grown over the years, I see it each and every day and I am happy to call Penfield home!

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