

Penfield celebrates its successes

◇ Monday's "Decade of Penfield Progress Party" highlighted the more than 200 projects.

**By Amy Cavalier
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Robert Beedon has been working in town governments since the mid-1960s. Beedon, Penfield's director of finance, said Penfield is the best place he's ever worked, and he still enjoys going to work every day after 22 years in his position.

"Everyone loves coming to work here," he said. "Maybe it's due to the fact that we have a lot of fun goals and objectives, so we know what's going on for the year, and what results are expected," Beedon said.

In fact, Supervisor Channing Philbrick said, Penfield's motto is, "A town of planned progress."

Town officials and residents gathered in the Town Hall Monday night to celebrate a decade of progress. A 16-foot timeline highlighted the 220 projects that have either been completed or are in the midst of completion over the past decade.

Philbrick said "the party is a chance to recognize the town's efforts and to thank the employees that make Penfield a great place to live, work and raise a family. They



STAFF PHOTO/CARRIE ANN GRIPPO

Penfield celebrated a "decade of Penfield progress" Monday night with a video presentation and a reception.

rarely get recognition or support for all they do."

One of the largest projects

the town has undertaken in the past decade is the Open Spaces Plan. In 2002, residents

approved the borrowing of \$10 million to purchase properties or the development rights of properties to save land from being development.

Director of Planning Doug Fox said of the 39 properties identified for preserving, the town has purchased the development rights on five, which total 750 acres of land. Philbrick said he expects the majority of properties identified in the plan to be in some phase of purchase by fall.

Other projects include road improvements, sidewalk construction, land use and traffic plans and a comprehensive plan, which blueprints how town officials want to see the town developed in terms of business and residential growth.

Philbrick said he takes planning very seriously.

"If you don't have a plan in place, things will happen without focus or organization, and that's not how we want our community to mature."

Town spokesman Brian Anglin said Penfield is able to do so many incredible projects because of the organization behind the scenes. He said there are about 150 town employees and 120 people from the community that meet on a regular basis to make things happen.

"That's what town government is all about," he said. "Neighbors, working together, to make Penfield the kind of place we want to live."