I had the honor of swearing in nine members of the Kids Miracle Making Club (KMMC) at their 2015 Inauguration Party last week. The club wanted to start the New Year by renewing existing memberships and taking in new members. The club’s approach is very simple, helping kids fulfill the oath they will be taking to become a club member: “I solemnly swear to explore what makes me special—my special talents and unique personality—to develop them to the best of my ability, and to use them to help other kids—kids with special needs and challenges greater than my own—enjoy the things I enjoy.” The KMMC is a service learning organization where members learn something new or of interest then use that learning to perform a community service. KMMC provides its young members, ages 5–12, a "stage" to explore who they are and what they want to become. Leaders help members feel even better about themselves and their new learning by helping them create projects to help kids with physical and development challenges. To learn more about the KMMC go to www.kmmclub.org.

I recently attended the Penfield Fire Company’s annual banquet to recognize outgoing President Joseph Palma and Chief Chris Ebmeyer. Additionally, Chris Ebmeyer was recognized by the board of directors as “Firefighter of the Year.” Both Chris and Joe have served the Penfield Fire Company for more than 25 years in various capacities. As a community, we are fortunate to have this dedicated and committed group of volunteer men and women who serve and protect Penfield 24/7, 365 days a year. On behalf of the entire community, I want to thank Joe and Chris, as well as all the members of the Penfield Fire Company, for their service.

Speaking of service, Gene Renner was presented the 60 year service award by the Penfield Fire Company. When accepting the award, a very humble Mr. Renner said, “…please always remember family first…then service to your community!” He is a man of few words with a powerful message for us all. Gene, you are a benchmark for our community, thank you and congratulations!

For the past five years I have given a “State of the Town Address” that included a detailed PowerPoint presentation and several exhibits. That presentation consumed many hours of staff resources at a time when we should be looking at ways to make government more streamlined and efficient. To that end, I will be preparing a summary report of accomplishments in 2014; a look at 2014 financial performance, 2015 budget goals, and a review of 2015 goals for posting on our website by January 30 for all residents to review. As questions come in, they will be posted along with follow-up answers. I welcome questions and comments at any time regarding the operation of the town.

Until next week, be well and be safe.

Tony

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