While we have been fortunate to have had very little snow to deal with this winter season, even small accumulations and slick surfaces have the potential to make driving treacherous. Our Department of Public Works (DPW) employees would like to reinforce some winter weather tips to help you be safe and prepared: Please allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely and drive slowly, it is harder to control or stop your vehicle on an icy or snow-covered road; increase your following distance enough so that you have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you, especially when following one of our plow trucks; and if you begin to skid, stay calm and ease your foot off the gas while steering in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go. Stay off the pedals (gas and brake) until you have control of your vehicle. Our DPW is a dedicated group of professionals with many years of experience plowing and salting Penfield’s roadways to ensure your safe travels.

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 22 to attend “For Our Valentines: Bonbons & A Movie” presented by the Penfield Symphony Orchestra. All concerts are held at the Penfield High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Free rides to the concerts are available from Lifespan by calling 872-0774. This concert is being sponsored by Harris Beach and St. Ann’s Community at Cherry Ridge. For more than 60 years the Penfield Symphony Orchestra has been bringing great music to our community. Please join the PSO for another wonderful evening of music and fun.

A special community shout-out to Sarah Jane Clifford, owner of the Gymnastics Training Center, for receiving the Community Impact Award from Starbridge at the Celebration of Champions. During this event, Starbridge raised more than $26,000 to support children and adults striving for success in school and employment. Sarah Jane and her team at the Gymnastics Training Center are a jewel in our community...congratulations on this recognition!

One last reminder...the Penfield Trails Committee will host its the annual "indoor hike" on Saturday, February 13, 10:00 a.m. at Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue. There will be a presentation by the Rochester Orienteering Club, entitled "The Thinking Sport." Enhance your outdoor adventure by learning the basics of using a map and compass to navigate to any outdoor setting while hiking or cross-country skiing. The Rochester Orienteering Club meets at local parks monthly and has a long history in Rochester. While the "hike" is free, participants are asked to pre-register by calling Penfield Recreation at 340-8655, option 6. Light refreshments will be served.

The holidays are over and everyone is back to their normal routines. Please remember that the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf continues to work hard to help support those less fortunate in our community. PEFS is always in need of food donations to help keep the shelves stocked. To learn more about this wonderful community organization and their current wish list of items, please go to www.penfieldecumenicalfoodshelf.org.

Looking for some interesting programs for you children to participate in during winter break? Please check out all of the exciting programs the Penfield Library has lined up in the winter/spring Pen-Rec brochure on pages 44 and 45. Or go to www.penfieldlibrary.org.

The Daytime Education at Recreation (DEAR) series is always looking for new classes to offer. If you would like to teach a class please contact our Recreation Team at 340-8655 or submit a program proposal form, available at www.penfieldrec.org.

Until next week...drive safely!

Tony
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