In Penfield we are very fortunate to have dedicated employees that pride themselves on the service they provide our residents and those visiting our great community. Recently, Carol MacDonald, Penfield Public Library’s longtime head of circulation, retired to enjoy the next chapter of her life. Carol’s professionalism, dedication to providing superb service, and knowledge of library policies and procedures was admired by her colleagues, not just at our library, but throughout the Monroe County Library System. Carol, thank you for your service to Penfield, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement. Congratulations!

I have recently had the opportunity to talk with Jack Best, an active member of the Penfield Rotary and Rotary International. Jack is also active in the Stop Hunger Now Eastside Communities project. Stop Hunger Now distributes food and other life-saving aid to vulnerable children and families around the world, and works to help end world hunger. They package and ship meals to feed people in need through community-supported meal-packaging programs. In the first year of the Eastside Communities project (2014), 120 volunteers packed 33,000 meals. More than 70% of the meals are consumed by elementary school children overseas. Villagers in those third world countries realize the value of education to raise them out of poverty and help to build their communities. The goal this year is to engage 200+ volunteers to package 50,000 meals. To learn more on how to get involved and/or to donate, please log on at http://events.stophungernow.org/eastsidecommunities.

With the extreme cold temperatures over the last few weeks, and the cold weather projected to continue, the Fire Marshal’s Office asked me to remind our residents about some tips to keep your home safe: make sure chimneys, woodstoves, fireplaces and furnaces are regularly inspected and cleaned; keep combustible materials away from fireplaces, woodstoves and other heating sources; store gasoline in approved containers and keep the containers in an outdoor shed or other area away from your home; turn off the stove and extinguish candles when you leave the room; make sure you have working smoke detectors on every floor of your home; and properly dispose of fireplace and woodstove ashes.

The next Penfield Symphony Orchestra performance will be held on Monday, February 23 at the Penfield High School Auditorium beginning at 7:30 PM. This program is being sponsored by The Charles Finney School and will feature RPO Concertmaster Juliana Athayde and Principal Oboe Erik Behr. Tickets for the concert are available at all Wegmans stores, by phone at 872-0774 or on-line at www.penfieldsymphony.org. Free rides to the concert are available from Lifespan by calling 872-0774. Also, mark your calendars for the last concert of the 2014-2015 season which will be held on Monday, May 4, entitled Springtime Celebration.

Until next week, please heed the safety tips from our Fire Marshal’s Office, drive according to weather conditions, and make sure your vehicles are not parked on the roadways overnight, allowing our DPW crews to safely plow.

Tony

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