Shadow Pines update…This will be the last update before the vote that is scheduled to be held next Tuesday, February 27 from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM at the Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. For information and history regarding Shadow Pines, please log on to www.penfield.org then click on “Information about the Shadows” at the top of the home page to view all the information and documents relating to this project.

The annual Penfield Rotary Euchre Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, March 11 at The Legacy, 40 Willow Pond Way (off Rt. 441). Tickets are $20 per person if purchased by March 10, and $25 the day of the event. Admission includes water, coffee, and snacks. Other beverages and pizza will be available for purchase before and during the games. All proceeds will benefit Camp Haccamo, a place for children and adults with a wide range of disabilities, and other Penfield Rotary Programs.

Buy your tickets early to ensure your seat as the tournament is limited to 100 players. In person, visit Family First Credit Union, 2520 Browncroft Blvd; buy online at www.penfieldrotary.org; purchase by mail (postmarked by March 5) at Penfield Rotary Club, PO Box 28, Penfield NY 14526; or by phone 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM call Charlie 381-8889, 6:00 to 9:00 PM call Bill at 388-8546. The Penfield Rotary will like to recognize and thank sponsors Baker Commodities, Family First Credit Union and Lotus Blossom Yoga.

The Penfield Players present their Winter Readers’ Theatre which is FREE to the public! Fools by Neil Simon will be performed on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25 at the Penfield Community Center at 2:00 PM, both dates. Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He’s landed a terrific teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives, he finds people sweeping dust from the stoops back into their houses and people milking upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with “chronic stupidity” for 200 years and Leon's job is to break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays more than 24 hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes stupid. But, he has fallen in love with a girl so stupid that she has only recently learned how to sit down. Fools is another winner by Neil Simon!

As the snow melts and temperatures rise this time of the year, we begin to receive calls and emails from residents asking if and when we will begin repairing snowplow damage to lawns. Yes, the town will repair any and all lawn damage from our road and sidewalk plows. We tend not to start this process until the later part of March unless long range forecasts indicate otherwise. Our crews will replace sod, bring in top soil and seed damaged areas.

This week I close my column on a sad note with the passing of Judge Donald J. Mark. Judge Mark was an amazing man and a person who many looked up to and tried to emulate. He was born in Rochester on March 31, 1926, attended St. Andrew’s School, Aquinas Institute, Syracuse University, and Cornell Law School. He served our country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II and the Korean War. He met and married Rosalie Lanza, they had two children Laurie and Robert and became grandparents to three.

Judge Mark was admitted to practice on November 10, 1953. His judicial resume is extensive: he was a Justice of the Penfield Town Court from 1964 to 1973; a Judge of the Monroe County Court from 1974 to 1983; and a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, elected in 1983 to a 14-year term. The Monroe County Bar Association rated Judge Mark as “highly recommended” for Supreme Court in 1983 and “superior” in 1982. In 1974 he was rated “superior” for County Court. Justice Mark pioneered multiple jury trials (five double-jury trials and two triple-jury trials); authored more than 100 decisions published in law books; and decided Dunaway v. New York in County Court which was affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court and became a legal precedent nationwide and is the name of a hearing.
On a personal note, I first met Judge Mark in 1985 while I was first running for town board. Over the past 32 years I have been fortunate to get to better know this remarkable man. I have had the honor of Judge Mark swearing me in for all my elected races for Penfield Town Board, Monroe County Legislature, and Penfield Town Supervisor. On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, Judge Mark swore me in, from his hospital bed, for the 14th time!

Penfield is fortunate to have had Judge Donald J. Mark as an outstanding member of our great community. I am honored to have known him and to have had his guidance and support over the years…rest in peace Judge.

Until next week…be well and be safe!

Tony

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