Since the beginning of this year, severe winter storms have caused the cancellation of thousands of blood and platelet donations across the eastern United States. Nearly 6,000 times a day, someone receives blood from a Red Cross donor and yet, only about three percent of the population donates. If you are a regular donor...thank you. If you have never donated, please consider donating, it does make a difference. Upcoming opportunities to give blood in Penfield include Monday, February 23 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Rochester Christian Reformed Church, 2750 Atlantic Ave and Monday, March 2 at Penfield Sport and Fitness, 667 Panorama Trail West from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please schedule an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or just stop by, the volunteers would love to see you!

I do not want to sound like a broken record; however, I do want to make sure we are all doing what we can to support the three fire districts that cover our town. I am again asking residents and businesses to clear snow from around fire hydrants that are adjacent to your homes and businesses. Sadly, we have seen delayed responses to fires in other communities as firefighters have had to shovel out hydrants before they could connect to fight fires. Firefighters recommended clearing a three foot space around the circumference of fire hydrants. Please do your part to support yourself and your neighbors by helping to maintain open and assessable fire hydrants...thank you in advance.

As the snow and cold continues to grip the area the need for donations at the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) remains high. Let us not forget those less fortunate in our community that may need extra assistance to put food on the table. The PEFS operates 52 weeks a year. Learn how to donate by contacting volunteers at 234-0799 or log on to penfieldfoodshelf@gmail.com. Your ongoing support makes a big difference in the lives of many Penfield families.

As you may be aware, the Penfield Town Board will hold a public hearing March 4 on the proposed Sex Offender Child Safety Act. We recently learned the State Court of Appeals struck down existing and proposed local legislation to further restrict where registered sex offenders may live, citing that the State has already created a comprehensive and detailed regulatory scheme with regard to this subject. My first reaction is...really? The State gets very little right, as we have seen over the years, as to what they place on the books and mandate to local governments. The town board will move forward with the public hearing and welcome any and all interested residents to come speak on behalf of this local law.

Attention high school and college students...applications are continuously accepted for school year lifeguards, water safety instructors, program specialists, and summer camp coordinators. Applications are available at the Recreation Department or online at www.penfieldrec.org.

Until next week, please help clear out a hydrant adjacent to your home or business and stay warm. Spring is sure to make an appearance soon!

Tony