I would like to congratulate Heather Saffer, owner of Dollop on Penfield Road, for winning “Cupcake Wars” as seen this past week on the Food Network Channel. Heather opened her business in 2009 at the Rochester Public Market and moved to Penfield a year ago. She is a self-taught baker with strong local roots who has worked hard to set her business apart and create a completely new concept in the Rochester area. Creativity seems to be the key ingredient that has brought her great success over a very short period of time. Heather, on behalf of the community of Penfield, congratulations on an impressive win on “Cupcake Wars”!

You have heard me make reference to “Ecopark,” a partnership between the County of Monroe and Waste Management, located at 10 Avion Drive by the airport. I had an opportunity to tour the operation and I must say it was a great experience. This is a one-stop drop-off facility for normal recycling items such as plastic/glass/metal containers, paper and cardboard, electronic waste, old propane tanks, cooking oil/grease, clothing, clean Styrofoam packing, scrap metal, sharps and syringes, appliances (without CFC/Freon) and more. Additionally, by appointment, you can drop off household hazardous waste, pharmaceuticals and medication waste—all at no fee. There is a small fee for tires and appliances containing CFC/Freon. My hat is off to Monroe County and Waste Management for this innovative, “one of a kind in the country” operation. If you are looking for that one stop drop-off to help keep these items from our community’s waters and landfills, consider a visit to “Ecopark.” It is a benchmark in the industry. For more information on hours or operation, appointments and permitted items, please log on to www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark.

With the heavy winds we have experience this winter season, I am continually reminded by many of our residents to encourage the use of covers or some type of weighted device to hold down paper and other light items in blue boxes while they are waiting to be picked up by haulers. These materials are blowing throughout neighborhoods causing significant litter issues for neighbors and neighborhoods. Thank you in advance for helping to curb this problem and keeping Penfield litter free.

WANTED: Retired teachers, professors, and hobby and history enthusiasts to teach short one or two day sessions! The Penfield Recreation Department is looking to expand its series of interesting, engaging, educational and enlightening programs aimed at retired or semi-retired adults who enjoy stimulating conversation and challenging learning without tests. Topics can include history, science, literature, philosophy or art, as well as programs focused on hobbies and interests. If you can see yourself in this role please contact Pam at 340-8664. Hurry…the deadline is March 5.

I am reminded by Dave Woodward, president of the East Penfield Homeowners Association, that their annual “potluck dinner” will be held on Saturday, March 3 at 5:00 PM at the Roseland Fire Station, located at the corner of Plank and Salt Roads. If you like to eat good home cooking with many of the products grown in Penfield, I encourage you to consider attending. The public is welcome, everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, and everything else is provided. For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Dave at 872-0855…you will not be disappointed and you will learn a little bit more about East Penfield and our rich agricultural heritage.

Important dates and events in history: March 20, 1932, the 20th amendment is passed by congress, which establishes the beginning and ending of the terms of the elected federal offices. It also deals with scenarios in which there is no President-elect. March 3, 1931, the “Star Spangled Banner” is made the official United States National Anthem.

The days are getting longer and the weeks seem to be getting shorter…as we close out February and American Heart month, let us start planning for National Nutrition Month which is March…healthy meals and snacks…be WELL!

Tony
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