I have been contacted by the American Red Cross asking that I remind Penfield residents that March is Red Cross Month—and they need your help! Last month much of the northeast was hit with severe winter weather causing a significant number of blood drive cancellations and fewer blood donors keeping their appointments. All blood types are needed now, with an urgent need for types O negative, O positive, A negative and B negative. Thousands of blood donations are needed each day to help treat accident victims, cancer patients, children with blood disorders and more. One of the next blood drives in Penfield will be held on Monday, March 18 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Rochester Christian Reformed Church, 2750 Atlantic Ave. You may also schedule your appointment to give blood through the American Red Cross by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Please consider donating to celebrate Red Cross Month and help make a difference in our community.

Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) is seeking men and women who served in the armed forces during the Korean War (1950-1953) to sign up for a free Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Korean War Memorial. The program also remains open to World War II veterans. There are 5,384 Korean War Veterans in the Monroe County area. This is the 60th year of the armistice that ended the fighting, but not the hostilities. The Korean War started on June 25, 1950 when North Korea (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) attacked South Korea (Republic of Korea). The war stemmed from the attempts of both countries to reunify Korea. The United States, along with other NATO countries, supported South Korea while Russia and China aligned themselves with North Korea. During the 37-month conflict, 36,526 Americans were killed in action with another 103,000 wounded, 7,140 captured and 8,177 reported as missing in action. The war lasted until an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, and as a result a Korean Demilitarized Zone was established. Korean War veterans are encouraged to register for an Honor Flight Rochester mission by going online at www.honorflightrochester.org.

If you have spent enough time inside this winter, why not plan to join the Penfield Trails Committee in their series of guided hikes. The next hike is scheduled for Saturday, March 9 at Sherwood Fields. This is the town’s newest all-season park for hikers. Meet in the parking lot next to the fire house on Rt. 441 east of Harris Road. The hike runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you cannot make this hike, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon for a hike through Channing H. Philbrick Park. Celebrate Daniel Penfield’s selection of “The Hollow” as the best mill site in all 97,000 square miles of the Genesee lands in 1795. Meet at the kiosk on the north side of the bridge.

I am reminded that the St. Patrick’s Day Party for adults (ages 55-plus) is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 at noon at the Community Center. Stop in for corned beef and cabbage and some St. Patrick’s Day fun! You may purchase tickets in advance for $4.00 at the Recreation Department offices. That’s right, just $4.00 for a fantastic corned beef and cabbage dinner and entertainment. I attended last year and found it to be the best deal in town!

The Penfield Library celebrates its 12th annual “Spring into Arts” series with several exciting programs planned including Opera Guild of Rochester – Telling Tales with Art Axelrod on Sunday, March 10 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Gardening with Native Plants by Ellen Folts, owner of Amanda’s Garden (this program is co-sponsored with the Penfield Hills Garden Club) Wednesday, March 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; and a Mexico Travelogue with Tom DeClaire on Sunday, March 24 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information on these library programs and many more, please log on to www.penfieldlibrary.org.

Until next week, I hope to see you out in our great community.

Tony
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