Recently Chris Bilow, Penfield’s Recreation Director, was asked to present at the New York State Athletic Administrator Association’s (NYSAAA) annual state conference, which in itself is an honor. More impressive was his topic on “Community Recreation and School Programs, How to Work Together to Benefit Everyone.” Chris had the opportunity to speak with Athletic Directors from across the state on the relationship the Town of Penfield and the Penfield School District have established for program development and space usage. The relationship the town has with the school district is unique in that there is a true sense that both entities work together for the residents and students to ensure quality programs are offered. This is a great example of the collaboration that is being done routinely at the local level.

I recently attended the Webster Volunteer Fire Department’s (WFD) 2014 annual banquet which recognized members for their service and dedication to fire service and public safety. The WFD covers the northeast portion of Penfield. I would like to recognize three individuals who consistently give of themselves in service of our community. Craig Akins, Sr. was named 2013 Firefighter of the Year, Jaclyn Ingrassio was the top point winner for the most service responses in 2013, and Richard Swingly is celebrating 55 years of service in the Fire Department. Congratulations to Craig, Jaclyn and Richard on their service, as well as the more than 170 members of the department for all they do to support the Penfield Community.

The Penfield Heritage Association’s next Sunday program will be March 23 in the Penfield Library Braman Room from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Town Historian Kathy Kanauer will discuss an area located in the northeast quadrant of Penfield known as Roseland. In the early years of our great community Roseland was a hamlet settled by German immigrants. Kathy will also highlight photographer Arthur Frost who was born and raised in Roseland. Some of Mr. Frost’s glass plates will be on display at the program. Refreshments will be served; the program is free and open to the community.

The Penfield Heritage Association (PHA) also asked me to remind residents to save Saturday, April 26 for the third annual Civil War Day at the Penfield Library. PHA is co-sponsoring local author, Dennis P. Bielewicz, who will discuss his book “Heroes in the Attic,” the previously untold story of two Civil War soldiers. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. More details will be placed on www.penfieldlibrary.org and www.penfield.org.

This past weekend I had the honor of attending the annual awards banquet for the Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance (PVEA), celebrating 47 years of service to the Penfield community. Two members were recognized for their service. Charles L. Callear received the outstanding service award, which is PVEA’s highest award. This award recognizes a member who, over a period of time, has consistently worked to maintain the integrity and vision of PVEA. Richard D. Sperduto received the member of the year award. This award recognizes a member who went above and beyond to serve PVEA during 2013. On behalf of the entire community I would like to recognize and say thank you to Charlie and Richard for their dedication, support, and service to our residents— you do make a difference each and every day!

Until next week, I hope to see you out in the community as spring nears!

Tony