Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column

March 18, 2019

Penfield is home to remarkable people who have achieved incredible accomplishments in school, business, sports, and more. In this spirit, I would like to introduce you to Sung Kim. He is probably better known as Master Kim of Master Kim’s Tae Kwon Do Institute, located in the heart of Panorama Plaza.

In 1992, at the age of nineteen, Master Kim’s father (Grand Master Kim) told him to teach others what he knew. Heeding this advice, Sung Kim opened up his Tae Kwon Do Institute headquarters in Penfield, NY. He did this as he personally trained at a high level and also graduated from the State University College at Brockport. Today, there are three Master Kim’s Tae Kwon Do Institute locations in the Rochester area Penfield, Irondequoit, and Greece. Families that attend classes at Master Kim’s are very familiar with “Super Cup,” “Kick-a-Thon,” “Bully Awareness,” “After School Care,” and other popular programs.

What many may not know is that Master Kim is an Olympic Medalist! Also, he and his family will travel to Seoul, South Korea in a few short weeks to test for his 8th Degree Black Belt at KUKKIWON, The World Taekwondo Headquarters. At 45 years old, he will be the youngest 8th Degree Black Belt in the United States certified by KUKKIWON, which is the only rank accepted by the International Olympic Committee.

So what is involved and what is required of Master Kim to pursue his 8th Degree Black Belt? All of his documents have been received by KUKKIWON: an application, curriculum vitae of his taekwondo career, and his 10-plus page thesis on effective taekwondo teaching methods. I understand he is really looking forward to the physical exam, which begins with a four-hour training session with a KUKKIWON Grandmaster. All of the content will have to be demonstrated and he will have to pass an interview. Ultimately, this test is the culmination of 40 years of commitment to the art that has given him so much. I have heard Master Kim say that he has the greatest job in the world, and there hasn’t been a time that he did not have Taekwondo in his life.

On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, I would like to recognize Master Kim for his accomplishments and wish him well as he and his family travel to Seoul in April to be part of this history-making event. Thank you for everything you do to support our community and residents, you make a difference each and every day!

If you have been by the town hall and the Little League fields you may have noticed projects underway on fencing, back-stops, cutting in of a warning track, and other improvements. This work and more is being done in preparation for hosting the 2019, 2020, and 2021 New York State Championships for Majors 10, 11, and 12-year-olds. Penfield Little League and our community were honored to receive this award. This means that any team from New York State that wants to get to Williamsport for the World Series must come through Penfield. Many changes will be occurring this spring and summer to improve and upgrade this already wonderful facility. Now, if this is not a sure sign of spring, I don’t know what is! I am excited for the first pitch of the season and to hear the familiar call of “play ball!”

Please be on the lookout for the Summer 2019 Pen-Rec Brochure that is on its way to Penfield homes in the next few weeks. There are a number of new programs offered for all ages. I want to recognize the Recreation Team for another great job…thanks all!

Bri-Pen Senior Rides is very active in supporting Brighton and Penfield seniors by getting them to medical appointments, religious services or to town recreation centers. If you need a ride or would like to volunteer, please call 340-8674.

Until next week, be well and be safe; I hope to see you out in the community!

Tony

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