Last week I had a wonderful opportunity to participate in “Mayors for Meals,” sponsored by Visiting Nurse Meals on Wheels in collaboration with the American Red Cross. On this annual designated day, mayors and town officials across the country show their support for their local Meals on Wheels program by delivering meals to seniors.

To be eligible for the program, recipients must have a medical condition that puts them at nutritional risk.

The Meals on Wheels of Rochester and Monroe County has a very impressive resume:

- More than 1,000 recipients are currently enrolled
- More than 1,850 people were served in 2009
- 327,000 meals were delivered in 2009
- 10 million meals have been served since 1958
- Up to 200 volunteers are needed each day to deliver meals
- Volunteers provide a daily check of the well-being of the recipient

Penfield is fortunate to have access to these types of programs for our seniors. For more information on this program or to volunteer, please go to their website at MOW@vnsnet.com and remember their motto “Delivering Meals, One Smile at a Time.”

The Penfield Bicentennial Gala is officially in the history books of this great community, and what a night it was with two hundred residents, friends, and special guests coming together for a night filled with lively conversation, good food and drink, a very historic setting at the Daisy Flour Mill, and outstanding music provided by Rod Blumenau and His "All-star, All-Penfield Band,” Penfield High School Jazz Choir and Advanced Voice Class, and magic by Mike Dedee.

I want to recognize Gala Chair Don Riley, Bicentennial Chair Linda Kohl, and their steering committee and sub-committee for all their hard working in making this a premier event for Penfield’s Bicentennial. On behalf of the entire community thank you, thank you, and thank you!

I also thank Wegmans for their generous sponsorship of our Bicentennial Celebration. Wegmans hosted a birthday party on March 30 complete with beautiful cake to honor Penfield’s official 200th anniversary. Thanks also to County Executive Maggie Brooks for joining us for the event and proclaiming March 30, 2010 “Penfield Day” in Monroe County. The excellent Penfield Symphony Orchestra added a special touch to the birthday party with a string quartet performance of “Happy Birthday” and other music.

Wait…we are not done, there are still many more events to come during this year-long celebration. Please log on to www.penfield2010.org to see what’s next in the calendar of events.

We are pleased to kick off our newest website www.renewpenfield.org. RenewPenfield.org is a resource to help residents and businesses lower energy use and utility costs. It also provides access to incentives and rebates, and highlights town-wide energy efficient initiatives including the new Energy and Environmental Advisory Committee. Log on to see what’s new, how to save money, how to buy green, and how to get involved.

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