Earlier this month I reported that Jeffery Long of Boy Scout Troop 312 would be collecting and repairing used bicycles to donate to R Community Bikes in May as part of his Eagle Scout project. Please note the date of the event has been moved up to Sunday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. Jeffrey will make minor repairs before donating the bikes to the non-profit organization that last year placed 27,000 bikes with less fortunate children and adults in Rochester. Jeff welcomes your donations so he can help get bikes back into service to help less fortunate people in our community. Please consider stopping by with your donations to help support Jeff with his Eagle Scout project.

At last week’s “Living Next to Ponds” meeting we learned that most lawns in New York State do not need additional phosphorus for healthy growth. In fact, when fertilizer containing phosphorus is used on lawns, much of it is washed into streams, pond, lakes and reservoirs creating excess algae, plant growth, and green scum. If you fertilize your lawn please check the bag for a set of three numbers which represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Do you know the middle number should be zero? New York State Law states that phosphorus-containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawns or non-agricultural turf when a soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for growth or when the fertilizer is being used for newly established lawns during the first growing season. For more information, please visit www.dec.ny.gov. Knowing what to put on your lawns and when to do it can significantly reduce the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways and interfere with boating, swimming, fish populations, and drinking water quality.

Legacy Willow Pond recently held its annual “top chef” cook-off. I was invited to compete this year in a chili cook-off against Legacy Chef Tony Moringello and Rich and Stephanie Ide of the Dick Ide Family of dealerships in Penfield. I have had the honor to cook with Chef Tony in the past and he is a master. I recognize the Ides know how to sell cars…but I asked myself, could they really cook? I must say, when the dust settled and the friendly jesting subsided, there was one clear winner and that was Chef Tony; his skills and home court advantage carried the day. The Ide team and your supervisor both settled for a very close second. While we may have been defeated, both teams are ready for a rematch. A special thank you to Legacy Executive Director Liz Richardson, her staff, and all the wonderful residents for allowing us to entertain them with our whimsical thoughts and comments, our interesting and somewhat unusual culinary skills, and of course those crazy special ingredients that each team added to make our respective chili recipes stand out above the rest!

Over the weekend I had the honor of attending two Eagle Court of Honor ceremonies. The first was for Andre Robert Smith from Troop 363. For his Eagle Project, Andre designed and created coloring books that were individually packaged with crayons and sent to the Children’s Hospital & Camp Round-up River Ranch located in Colorado, AHOPE (African HIV Orphans Project Embrace) located in Ethiopia, and the Golisano Children’s Hospital in Rochester. Andre organized more than 110 hours of service for this project. The second Court of Honor was for Christopher Michael Sowden from Troop 312. Chris completed his Eagle Scout project by building a storage shed for the Penfield Community Victory Garden to store and secure their tools and equipment. Andre and Christopher, on behalf of the Penfield Community, we would like to congratulate you for attaining the rank of Eagle. Your hard work and commitment to scouting is an example for all the members of Troops 363 and 312—great job!

We can always use a few more hands this Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon to assist with Penfield Clean-up Day. Our roadsides, parks, athletic fields and other public areas can use a good sprucing up for spring. Please stop by the Community Center on Baird Road and join in the effort. Call 340-8651 or email srenner@penfield.org to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your support and assistance in cleaning up our great community!

Until next week, consider doing something nice for a neighbor, you will be amazed at the dividends it will pay for both parties!

Tony
340-8631
srenner@penfield.org