I was delighted to receive an e-mail from our Librarian Bernadette (Bunny) Brinkman regarding National Library Week, April 10-16. The Penfield Public Library was given an honorable mention for helping Indira Pracalic, an immigrant from Bosnia. Indira spoke very little English when she first visited the Library in 2000. Through the knowledge and help of our wonderful library staff, books and videos were pulled for use and review and I understand Indira is still a very active library user today. This is one of many inspiring stories about the Penfield Library. Congratulations to Librarian Bunny Brinkman and her entire staff for making a visit to our library so very special and life changing!

It has been a while since I gave you a brief update on the Daniel Penfield statue and the engraved bricks to be placed at Schaufelberger Park. As you recall we were notified by Exxon-Mobil regarding petroleum contamination of the soil from operations in the past. Exxon-Mobil is working with the Town, State of New York and the adjacent property owners on the best long term solution. We have elected to keep the bricks and statue in storage until the work is completed to avoid damage. We have asked Exxon-Mobil to move this up on their priority list so we are able to complete this wonderful recognition of the Town’s founder.

Last week’s workshop on Living Next to Stormwater Ponds II was another successful program highlighting the purpose and function of ponds, pond management past and future, and the building of a rain barrel. The program was hosted by Penfield, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Stormwater Coalition. Lawn fertilization, pool and spa discharge, pet waste, and motor oils/gasoline are the top pollutants in the storm sewer systems which lead to the more than 150 public and private ponds, as well as the many streams and waterways throughout the town. We should all be reminded that we live in the most important watershed in the world, the Great Lakes Watershed. Please remember to never dump anything down the storm drains! Recycle motor oil, properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, use low or no phosphorous lawn fertilizer, clean up pet waste, use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface. For more information and helpful tips, please log on to www.thestormwatercoalition.org or www.H2Ohero.org.

Now when you contact the Penfield Town Hall you will be greeted with a phone directory listing departments or staff members versus a receptionist. We continue to review the overall costs of operations. A decision was made six months ago to reduce the hours of the receptionist position as a pilot program. The pilot was successful and we decided to implement the directory system on a permanent basis. We have attempted to streamline the process so residents can get to the department or person they wish to conduct business with in a timely fashion. Additionally, there is a complete listing of all departments and employees located on our website at www.penfield.org. I recognize that change is not always easy for everyone; we continue to balance customer service and the cost of government. Thank you in advance for the understanding, and if you have any suggestions on how we can improve the directory system to better serve you, please contact me at anytime.

I continue to be amazed and impressed with the number and quality of programs our staff and others have planned for the community: Penfield Little League Opening Day, Saturday, April 30 at 9:00AM at Veterans’ Memorial Park; Trails Committee – Harris Whalen Park Scenic Trek, Saturday, May 7 from 10AM – noon; Penfield Players present “Horse-Scents” May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 at 8PM at the Community Center; Trails Committee – Ellison Park canoe/kayak paddle tour, Saturday, May 14 from 10AM – noon; and Penfield’s annual Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 30 at 10:30AM at the Penfield Amphitheater and Kiwanis Stage in Veterans’ Memorial Park. For details on these events and more, log on to www.penfield.org.

REMINDERS: 1) All Town Offices will be closed Friday, April 22 in observance of the Good Friday holiday. 2) The Spring/Summer edition of the Penfield Recreation Brochure should be in your mail boxes this week and it is another masterpiece from our Rec Team.

Until next week, see you out in the community!

Tony
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