The Penfield Symphony Orchestra held its final concert of the season last week featuring guest artist Tony Caramia, professor of piano at the Eastman School of music. I know PSO president Jeanne Gray and conductor David Harman were incredibly pleased with the 2010–2011 concert series, and we are indeed fortunate to have the music professionals of the PSO performing in our community. I would also like to remind the community that the annual Picnic Pops Concert will be held Saturday, June 4 at 4:00PM in the Veterans’ Memorial Park behind the Town Hall at the Penfield Amphitheater and Kiwanis Stage. This is a free concert! Bring your picnic basket and lawn chairs, this is always a wonderful family event.

Many residents have asked me about the outcome of this year’s the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection. I am happy to report that 334 Penfield and Webster residents were serviced, and a stunning 9.63 tons of hazardous materials were kept from possibly entering our ecosystem through storm sewers or improper disposal in area landfills. The annual program is a great example of inter-municipal cooperation between the Towns of Penfield and Webster Highway Departments with the County of Monroe’s Department of Environmental Services. We will continue to hold this very valuable program each year in April to assist our residents in properly disposing of household hazardous wastes.

Speaking of cleaning up, Penfield has had great success thus far with our 2011 programs. Last week several hundred residents took to the streets to pick-up neighborhoods, roadsides, parks, drainage ways and more, clearing our town of trash and debris that had collected over the winter months. Additionally, we had a very successful electronics recycling event in a partnership with Sunnking Electronics. This program helped to keep several tons of TVs, computers and other electronics out of landfills. The last event of “The Great Penfield Cleanup” series is currently underway, and you can still participate. Our annual Spring Drop-off runs May 12-14 at the Highway Garage on Jackson Road. The Volunteers of America will also be on hand to collect clothing and gently used household goods. See www.penfield.org for hours of Drop-off and hours for VOA participation. This is another way to help keep materials out of the landfill and promote reuse and up-cycling!

Boy Scout Troop 230 attended the last Town Board meeting as they are working on their “Citizenship in the Community” Merit Badge. Also, several members of Den Pack 230 attended the meeting and toured the PCTV studios in fulfillment of a Cub Scout requirement. The First Baptist Church is the Charter Organization (sponsor) for both Troop 230 and Pack 230 with more than 50 years of history in serving the youth of the Penfield Community. It is rich history like this that helps to make Penfield such a great Community to live and raise a family. I would be remiss if I did not mention former Scoutmaster and merit badge counselor, Rick Monczynski of this troop. Rick has been recently called to active duty for an 18-month tour overseas to serve our country. Rick, thank you for your service to Troop 230, the youth of our community, and our country.

Last weekend, Councilman Andy Moore and I attended an Eagle Court of Honor for Michael Kusmierz and Jonathan Hanscom from Troop 260 from St. Joseph’s Church. Michael’s Eagle project included programs to help meet the needs of patients who are uninsured or lack adequate health insurance. Jonathan’s Eagle project was to design and implement a program to help children with special needs and those fighting cancer. These are two more examples of the quality of youth and future leaders of our community and country. Congratulations Michael and Jonathan, you have made your families and community very proud.

The month of May is “Building Safety Month.” During this month, and throughout the year, building safety and fire prevention officials help to protect every resident in our community. It is important to remember this as we enter the busy season for permits on home additions, decks, pools, and other projects. May is also “National Historic Preservation Month.” Historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability.

The Penfield Players group recently kicked off its annual melodrama “Horse-Scents” by J. Mick Dunna. Chip and Patt’s Perfume Emporium, Rooming House, and Manure Museum is right on target for the over-the-top shenanigans you’ve come to love when attending a melodrama. With flamboyant director C.B. SeVille sitting right on stage the entire time, what could go wrong? Upcoming performances are May 13, 14, 20, 21. Tickets are available from Penfield Recreation by calling 340-8655.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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