Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
May 29, 2018

Memorial Day’s weather was a picture perfect for the annual “Ceremony of Remembrance” at Veterans’ Memorial Park on the Town Hall campus. The Penfield Pops Band and conductor Ken Scott provided beautiful music throughout the event. The Hon. Thomas VanStrydonck—retired Naval Commander, retired Supreme Court Justice, retired Chief Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, and current Deputy County Executive—provided the audience with a wonderful salute to the men and women that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. As always, the Presentation of Roses was a tremendously moving part of the ceremony.

This year’s essay contest award recipients were amazing with inspirational and moving writings on the topic “America’s Gift to My Generation.” First place: Catherine Healy, 8th grade, Bay Trail Middle School; 2nd place: Anna Coyle, 6th grade, Bay Trail Middle School; and 3rd place: Mary Cotter, 8th grade, Allendale Columbia School.

The event would not be complete without Boy Scout Troop 312. They assisted with set-up, programs, and clean-up, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance with the assistance of the American Heritage Girls NY Troop 2911 of Penfield, conducted the raising of the flag ceremony, and much more to make this day special.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank Pastor Robert Engler from the Penfield Wesleyan Church for the Invocation and Benediction for our ceremony; Broccolo Garden Center for providing all of the decorative flowers; and the Penfield Recreation Department, especially Sabrina Renner, for coordinating this wonderful community event. Let us never forget the sacrifices these brave men and women gave for our freedom!

I am sure many of in Penfield, Monroe County, the United States, and around the world are mourning the loss of Betty Perkins-Carpenter on this recent holiday weekend. You may know—or know of—Betty from her many years of teaching children how to swim and her famous “Fit by Five” program that my own daughters enjoyed along with tens of thousands of other local children. Maybe you knew her as an Olympic diving coach, health and fitness expert, an author who published numerous books on the importance of exercise for seniors, or as an Air Force veteran where she excelled in diving for the aquatic team and established physical activity programs for the children of Air Force-based personnel. Perhaps you know Betty from her more recent personal mission to match Department of Defense photographs with the veterans who appear in those pictures.

Regardless of how you knew Betty, you would know she was a woman ahead of her time who touched many lives in many ways. I feel honored to have known her and to say she touched the lives of members of my own family. The many people she influenced in our own community and around the world with her smile, caring personality, and knowledge will remember her for her energy, passion, and love of life and family. Betty’s passing is a big loss to us all. She has left a mark every place she has been and has helped to make the world a better place. Our thoughts are with Betty’s family.

Construction project...please note that Keeler Construction is scheduled to begin work on Creek Street between Browncroft Blvd. and Plank Road the week of June 4 as part of a Monroe County pavement resurfacing project. The work will include milling off the top layer of existing road asphalt, repair of some storm sewers and sidewalk ramps, then applying new asphalt to the road surface and with new pavement markings. During construction, traffic will be maintained with daily lane closures as needed and flaggers will be used to guide traffic around the work areas. Continuous access to driveways and side streets will be maintained, except when work is occurring directly in front of these access points. In these situations, the delay will only be for a brief time until construction personnel indicate that it is safe to cross the work zone. The work will progress rapidly and is expected to be completed by mid-July. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alan at 585-281-4742 at aboyer@clarkpatterson.com, or Henry Herdzik at 585-753-7729 at hherdzik@monroecounty.gov.

Until next week, enjoy the dry and warm weather, summer seems to finally be with us!

Tony

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