Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
May 30, 2017

Mother Nature may have dampened the morning of our Memorial Day Ceremony of Remembrance, but the rain did not diminish this wonderful annual event. There was “standing room only” as our community gathered inside the town hall auditorium for our ceremony. Penfield’s Memorial Day program continues to grow in popularity as we emphasize that it is a day to be with family and remember those who gave so much for our freedom…the military should be the most honorable profession we have!

I would like to recognize and thank our eloquent guest speaker, Commander Jon Allen, US Coast Guard Retired, for his inspirational words. Congratulations to essay contest winners Sam Keilman, 1st place (6th grade, Bay Trail School); Beatrice Reichman, 2nd place (6th grade Bay Trail School); and Elizabeth Turley, 3rd place (7th grade, home schooled) for their wonderful words of inspiration! Thank you Boy Scout Troop 312 for again being our helping hands setting up and taking down the venue, and leading us in the pledge and the raising of the flag. We also thank Pastor Rob Catalans from Browncroft Community Church, Broccolo’s Garden Center for providing all of the decorative flowers, and Sabrina Renner for coordinating this wonderful event.

The very popular “Presentation of Roses” continues to be a highlight of the program as individuals and families are able to remember a veteran with a rose. At the close of the ceremony a group of Troop 312 Boy Scouts made their way to the Veterans Memorial to lay the roses and salute those fallen men and women. Thank you gentlemen for your caring support of all our Veterans.

I would like to give a special shout-out to Betty Perkins-Carpenter, past U.S. Air Force Sergeant and resident of Penfield, who was recently selected for induction into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame representing the 55th Senate District. In recognition of her achievements, Perkins-Carpenter was recognized among veterans from across the state at an induction ceremony in Albany.

After graduating from Franklin High School, Perkins-Carpenter enlisted in the Air Force at age 17, where she excelled on the aquatic diving team and was assigned to teach swimming and survival techniques to Air Force personnel. She completed her service in the Air Force in 1950 as a Sergeant. Upon returning to Rochester, Perkins-Carpenter went on to coach swimming and diving at the University of Rochester. She later opened Perkins Swim Club in Penfield and coached men’s and women’s diving teams at national and international competitions and the 1976 Olympic Games as the only woman to ever lead both men’s and women’s diving teams in Olympic competition. Perkins-Carpenter is a published author on the topic of lifelong physical fitness, has been featured in top national publications, and is a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, recognitions and commendations. Betty continues to volunteer her time and talents to the Veterans Memorial & Executive Council, the Veterans Wellness Advisory Board, The Monroe County Veterans Advisory Committee, and the Korean War Veterans of Rochester.

On May 20, the Town of Penfield, along with family and friends of Terry Rothfuss, hosted the 3rd annual Terry Rothfuss Memorial Good Neighbor Day. Approximately 120 volunteers came out to help with spring
yardwork at the homes of 21 Penfield residents. Those helped were either senior citizens or disabled. Volunteers included families from the Penfield community and beyond; friends, family, and neighbors of the late Terry Rothfuss; a kindergarten lacrosse team led by Coach Heidi Rothfuss Rasmussen; and the entire Penfield High School Boys Varsity Lacrosse team, led by Coach John Schembri.

“You hear so much about kids not having any respect these days,” said Amy Kotzin, who was helped by the Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team. “Those young men were nothing but respectful and courteous while they were here. They even went above and beyond what I expected, then asked what else they could help with.”

Terry Rothfuss Memorial Good Neighbor Day was created to honor the legacy of Terry Rothfuss, a farmer in Penfield who was a friend to all. He was always ready and willing to help anyone at any time. Terry passed away in 2014, and a huge hole was left in the community. His family and friends wanted his legacy of friendship to continue to help his community and inspire others to do the same, so working with the Town of Penfield, Good Neighbor Day was created. Good Neighbor Day is an annual event held in May.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in New York State, the Penfield Library is holding a series of three films featuring strong women this summer. All will be held on Thursday evenings. (Please contact the Penfield Public Library for the title of the film as the movie licensing requirements do not allow us to publicize the titles.) The first film will be held this Thursday, June 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. (Universal Studios Home Entertainment, 2015, 87 minutes, rated PG-13)

This film, inspired by true events, is a moving drama exploring the passion and heartbreak of the women who risked everything in their fight for equality in early 20th century Britain. The story centers on Maud, an ordinary wife and mother whose life is forever changed when she is secretly recruited to join the UK’s growing suffragette movement. The film directed by Sarah Gavron and the screenplay written by Abi Morgan, stars Carey Mulligan, Anne-Marie Duff, Helena Bonham Carter, and Meryl Streep.

Until next week be well and be safe!

Tony

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