The day was picture-perfect, the venue was simple yet inviting, attendance was one of the highest since the program began, and the music was strongly reflective of the freedoms we enjoy today. Our “Ceremony of Remembrance” on Memorial Day was one of the most moving I have attended in Penfield over the last several decades. The audience enjoyed the music of the Penfield Pops Band, some very inspirational words from E. Daniel Quatro, Monroe County Legislator for the 15th District representing a portion of Penfield, three amazing essays from local junior high students, and the solemn parade of roses, which has become the signature of this ceremony, growing in popularity each year.

I would like to recognize and thank Bridget Doyle, a Penfield High School Student, grade 12 for singing the National Anthem; Andy Strawhand, Commander, VFW Post 820 for coordinating the essay contest; Boy Scout Troops 312 and 310 for the raising of the flag and helping to set up and clean up; Broccolo’s Garden Center for providing the decorative flowers; and Sabrina Renner from our Recreation Department for her leadership and coordination of this wonderful event.

I would like to recognize the three VFW Essay Contest Award winners from the Ceremony of Remembrance: 1st place, Anna Givens, Bay Trail Middle School, 7th grade; 2nd place, Anna Thorpe, Charles Finney School, 7th grade; and 3rd place, Meghan Morral, Charles Finney School, 7th grade. These three young ladies did a fabulous job of writing three powerfully reflective essays. I would like to thank Anna, Anna, and Meghan for participating in the ceremony and personally sharing their essays. If you were unable to attend last Monday’s program you can view it online or Penfield TV. You will also be able to view the three essays; I encourage everyone to take a moment to read these wonder works by these three local students. To view the video or read the essays, please log on at www.penfield.org.

The Building & Zoning Department reminds me that spring and summer is a very busy time to install pools, shed and decks. They asked that I remind all residents to make sure to apply for a building permit, be aware of setback requirements, and be sensitive that you are not blocking drainage for yourself or your neighbors. A quick call to Building & Zoning at 340-8636 may save a lot of frustration and re-work.

The Penfield Public Library is offering many programs for adults, teens and children. As the school year winds down and we head into the summer season, many of us are looking for programs for our children and grandchildren. Take a moment to review the Pen-Rec brochure summer edition hard copy or online at www.penfieldrec.org to view all the programs for the summer break.

Sondra Young, Executive Director of Legacy at Willow Pond, contacted me to share some exciting news about a new farmer’s market that will be held at Legacy every Wednesday beginning June 19 through October from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. All in the Penfield community are welcome to attend to pick up some fresh fruits and vegetables. The Legacy has been a great partner with many organizations in town, and they continue to look for ways to support our residents on many fronts. Mark your calendar and plan on stopping by to do some shopping, I’m looking forward to it and hope to see you there!

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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