Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
June 26, 2017

You may have recently seen a news release from the JACK Foundation announcing that construction has begun for “Jack’s Place Playground” at Rothfuss Park. We are delighted to have been able to designate a site in this wonderful park that has become a weekly destination for hundreds of children of all ages and their parents to play sports, have picnics, walk the trails, and enjoy nature.

This dinosaur-themed playground will be taking shape over the next several weeks and later this summer Jack’s parents, Anne and AJ Heiligman, will host a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. JACK Foundation is selling engraved bricks that will be installed on the path leading to this wonderful new playground. For more information about the foundation and to follow the construction of the playground, please log on to www.jack-foundation.org and follow JACK Foundation on Facebook.

The Town’s employee wellness committee asked me to remind everyone that July is “UV Safety Month.” The need to protect skin from the sun has become very clear over the years, supported by several studies linking overexposure to the sun with skin cancer. Harmful ultraviolet rays from both the sun and indoor tanning “sunlamps” can cause many other complications besides skin cancer, such as eye problems including cataracts and macular degeneration, the primary cause of vision loss among older adults.

During these warm summer months we spend most of our time outdoors with friends and family. Some sun exposure is recommended because it’s our primary source for vitamin D which helps absorb calcium for stronger and healthier bones; but like with everything else, moderation is key.

The medical community will tell you that there are four ways to prevent UV damage: go for the shade, wear protective clothing, apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen, and wear sunglasses. Also, it is recommended to routinely check your skin for any changes. Birthmarks—especially new moles and marks—should be consistently examined for any alterations in size, shape, or color and if they look or feel differently from other moles and marks on your body.

The 2017 concert series at the Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage gets in full swing on Tuesday, July 11 with “Tuesdays Upstage” featuring Bobby Henrie & The Goners, an authentic old-school Rockabilly and roots Rock’ n’ Roll band. Later that week kicks off “Thursday Kids Fest” on July 13 featuring the ever-popular Dady Brothers. Finally, to round out that week, gather your picnic basket and cooler and enjoy “Saturdays on Stage” on July 15 with the Zac Brown Tribute Band.

The music starts at 7:00 PM, with great food available each night. The amphitheater is located at Veterans’ Memorial Park, 3100 Atlantic Ave, directly behind the town hall. I hope to see you at our concert series events.

There are still some openings in various Recreation Department programs for residents of all ages. Please review the 2017 summer edition of the PenRec brochure or go to www.penfieldrec.org to see all of the offering for the summer months.
One last reminder…Independence Day 2017 activities will be held this Saturday, July 1 with the parade scheduled for 10:00 AM. Parade marshals are the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf and Mr. Dave Woodward, owner of Woody Acres Farm. Come to Harris-Whalen Park from 5:00 to 11:00 PM to enjoy music, food, and fun! Penfield’s popular fireworks display begins at 10:00 PM.

Mr. Woodward and his family are a three-generation Penfield farm family who have supported this community in countless ways for more than 100 years. As part of his continuous give-back to Penfield, Dave will have a wagon at Harris Whalen Park during the festivities to collect non-perishable foods and personal care items for donation to Food Shelf. When you come to the park for the music and fun, please consider bringing a canned good, a box of cereal, shampoo, cake mixes and frosting, pasta, coffee or other food goods. Your donation will make a big difference to many Penfield families. I hope to see you there!

Until next week, enjoy the start of your summer and the various programs Penfield will offer in the coming months.

Tony

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