Once again I have the honor of starting this column by recognizing new Eagle Scouts in our community. Last weekend Mitchell F. Krenzer and Nicholas Matthew Brown were recognized at an Eagle Court of Honor by Boy Scout Troop 312. Mitchell identified a need for repairs at the Army National Guard rifle range in Lucien Morin Park, which was active up to and throughout the Korean War. For his project, Mitchell scraped, sanded, primed, and repainted the Officer’s Watchtower. He also removed and replaced seven sections of deteriorated split rail fencing with new wood, and cleaned up landscaping at the site. Mitchell’s grandfather trained at this site; therefore this project was very special to him. He is also the nephew of Town Board member Paula Metzler. For his project, Nicholas refurbished ten wooden benches for the Town of Penfield that are used by residents across the community. He disassembled the benches, planed and sanded all the wood, re-painted the boards with deck stain, then reassembled the benches. This project will prolong the useful of the benches for many years to come. Nicholas is the cousin of County Legislator Debbie Drawe. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield I want to thank and congratulate Mitchell and Nicholas for their projects and attaining the rank of Eagle. Your efforts have made a difference in your community!

I would like to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Penfield-Perinton Foundation and Town of Penfield staff volunteers for the annual Community Charity Golf Tournament held last week. All of the tournament proceeds will benefit the Golisano Children’s Hospital, local community food pantries, Penfield High School Scholarship Fund, Shepherd Home, Bethany House, and Camp Puzzle Peace. Giving back to the community is key for both the Kiwanis Club and our Town staff...thank you for all you do to benefit so many members of the Penfield Community.

Over the next six to eight weeks I want to highlight the various farm markets and garden centers in our town that provide so much support and enjoyment to our residents and surrounding communities. First up is Schutt’s Apple Mill, located 1063 Plank Road. The Schutt family has grown apples and pressed cider for four generations since 1918. The Apple Mill is stocked daily with fresh apples, baked goods, cider, New York State cheeses, home-made preserves, spices, unique gifts, and more! Schutt’s is a great destination for the entire family from U-pick cherries and raspberries to fried cakes, from 5X Rat Trap Cheese to Stonewall Kitchen Jelly and Jams. Of course there are the apples, typically seven or more varieties to choose from, and don’t forget to try the “Apple Frosty” which is a favorite of mine! For more information please go to www.schuttsapplemill.com or just stop in, I know the Schutt family will appreciate your business...and please remember to shop locally, it does make a difference for the entire community!

Important Dates and Events in History: July 2, 1862 – Bugle call “Taps” composed during the War between the States; July 1964 – Segregation is abolished in the United States; July 3, 1863 – Union forces win the Battle of Gettysburg; July 4, 1776 – The United States declares its independence from Britain by approving the Declaration of Independence.

I ask that between cookouts, parades, and fireworks, the true significance of this holiday not be overlooked. The Fourth of July is actually the birthday of America as a free and independent nation. The Declaration of Independence, which was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 is, quite literally, our nation’s birth certificate. Therefore, until next week, I would like to wish all of you and your families a very happy and safe July 4th Holiday!

Tony

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