I would like to give a shout-out to Laurel Tarcinale, president of the Nature Craft Garden Club of Penfield and co-chair of the "Garden on the Corner." Eleven years ago this garden club created the 1,500 foot community garden (located at the corner of Five Mile Line and Whalen Roads) under the guidelines of "Penfield in Bloom" in conjunction with Penfield Business Association. While the Penfield in Bloom program has not been as active in recent years, this particular garden has been, and it's still going strong. I enjoy passing through the intersection this time of the year to see the growth and color.

Last week the club planted 14 flats of annuals and a dozen new perennials, all donated by Penfield area greenhouses. These generous greenhouses have supported the garden since year-one and include Agway Gardens on Empire Blvd, Bauman’s Farm Market, Edgewood Nursery, Inc., Rochester Lawn and Garden Center, Welch’s Greenhouses, Wickham Farms, and Zaretsky & Associates, Inc. If you’ve taken time to enjoy the garden I think you’ll agree it is an asset to our community. I would like to recognize all members of the Nature Craft Garden Club for creating and maintaining the beautiful garden they have designed for a summer stroll or a quiet moment on a nearby bench. Thank you for your service to our community!

The Penfield Recreation Department and 4th grade classes from Cobbies were recently part of the “World’s Largest Swim Lesson.” Cobbies’ 52 students walked to the pool where PenRec’s aquatic staff led the lesson. The event was documented and formalized by Betty Perkins Carpenter and Joe Picciotti (both Penfield residents) who served as “official witnesses.” This was the first time PenRec and the school district collaborated on this event; from the feedback I have received and the smiles on participants’ faces, I believe it will not be the last! Special thanks to Linanne Conroy from PenRec and Tracy Perkins, Physical Education teacher at Cobbies, for coordinating the event. There was an incredible amount of work to plan the program, from securing instructors and guards to getting all 52 children tested and ready for the lesson. Participants received certificates and information on PeRec swimming programs. Pre-event registration numbers were stronger than ever, with as many as 40,000 total participants this year. We hope to hear soon if a record was set!

Last week I had the honor of attending the St. Joseph’s School “Kindergarten Celebration” where 37 young ladies and men were recognized for their work during the year and upcoming move to first grade. Family and friends were entertained with songs and poems highlighting their kindergarten learning journey. Diplomas were presented to eager recipients by Fr. James Schwartz, Ms. Theresa Hanna, Ms. Ellen Wurz, and Mrs. Sharon Neu-Collins. I would like to recognize Sabrina Reiya and Adyson Larwood for receiving the Mary Beth Carey Memorial Scholarship. Mary Beth was a beloved kindergarten teacher at St. Joseph’s who passed in 2008. The Carey family has sponsored scholarships to students who display kindness to others, are joyful, portray a love of life, respect teachers and others, are cooperative, have a love of learning, live the Christian faith, follow the golden rule, play fair, and are willing to share. Congratulations to Sabrina and Adyson!

The Kids Miracle Making Club of Penfield is hosting its second annual team duathlon and family fun day on Saturday, July 12 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. John Fisher’s Polisensi Track and Field Complex. The event is a fundraiser for the construction of an adaptive playground in Penfield for kids of all abilities to play together. Learn more at www.kidsmiraclemakingclub.com or by calling Steve Pellow at 749-7515.

Here is one last shout-out for a free guided canoe/kayak paddle at Ellison Park on Saturday, July 5 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at Ellison Park’s south entrance off Blossom Road and follow hike signs. You must provide your own canoe or kayak and a mandatory personal flotation device. While the guided paddle is free, participants are encouraged to pre-register by call PenRec at 340-8655, option 6.

Until next week, be well and be safe!