I recently had a conversation with Andy Strawhand, commander of VFW Post 820, regarding membership at the Post. As you may imagine, the Post has lost many members due to age over the years. Andy asked that I remind the Penfield community that they welcome all former military to consider becoming members of the VFW. For more information, please contact Andy at 671-2613.

The Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage heats up in July with many exciting and popular concerts planned for all ages. “Cool Jazz” Tuesdays features Mark Cassara on July 9, River Dogs Dixeland on July 16, Tritone Jazz Camp Faculty on July 23, and the White Hots on July 30. The wine tent will be open at all “Cool Jazz” events. “Kids Fest” Thursdays features Bart and Kevin on July 11, Dady Brothers on July 18, the Dinner Dogs on July 25, and Mike Kornrich on August 1. And to round out July, we have “Saturdays on Stage” starting with Ruby Shooz on July 20, the always exciting Gap Mangione New Big Band on July 27, and Mr. Mustard Beatle Review on August 3 (It’s My Party opens the show at 5:00 p.m.). All programs begin at 7:00 p.m., and great food is available each night. I look forward to seeing you at this summer’s concert series.

In recent conversations with Penfield Librarian Bernadette Brinkman, she has reminded me there are still openings for many of the summer programs so don’t delay, learn more at www.penfieldlibrary.org.

On Saturday, June 22 Penfield was honored to temporarily retire the current American flag at Rothfuss Park and replace it with a flag that was flown for four months over a Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan during the winter and spring of this year. Lt. Daniel P. Murphy, whose hometown is Penfield where he attended St. Joseph’s School then Siena, McQuaid Jesuit and the US Naval Academy, returned from his deployment with this flag that was given to him by his parents. The flag is being flown over Rothfuss Park in memory of all the men and women who have served during the war in the Middle East. The flag was given new to the Murphys by the Freedom Flag Company located in Penfield. Owner Dick Burgey, a veteran of the Vietnam War, will build a protective display case for the Murphy’s flag so that when it is retired, it can be returned to Dan. When you go by Rothfuss Park and view the flag, please think of all the members of our military and their families and the great sacrifices that are being made for our freedoms.

‘Tis the season…most of Penfield’s farm markets and farm stands are filled with fresh products for your gardens and refrigerators. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful selection of fresh —and in many cases—Penfield-grown plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables available throughout the town for your enjoyment. Please consider supporting our local farmers and farm stands, it makes a difference and it’s good for our community.

Important dates and events in history: 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; July 6, 1775 – the Second Continental Congress passes the “Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms;” July 7, 1898 – The United States annexes Hawaii.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful and safe Independence Day holiday.

Tony
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