Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
July 2, 2019

Wow…what a day for a parade, music, fireworks, and more! The annual Independence Day celebration held this past Saturday had picture perfect weather with more than 60 groups lined up for the parade that included bands, businesses, churches, fire departments, and floats making their way from Penfield High School through the Four Corners to the Community Center. Mr. Don Alhart, who has been so gracious for decades, once again served as Parade Emcee with his well-known golden voice. More than 8,000 people were on-hand at Harris Whalen Park to enjoy food trucks, music, and the always popular fireworks display! I would like to recognize and thank Recreation Director Chris Bilow, Assistant Directors Linanne Conroy and Andrew Urckfitz, and their entire staff for organizing another great event. Also, I want to recognize our DPW team for traffic control, set-up/clean-up, and all the behind the scenes efforts to help make this event so successful...great job team Penfield!

I want to recognize this year’s Parade Marshal, Honor Flight Rochester. Penfield is honored that town resident Richard Stewart serves as the President, CEO, and Director of Honor Flight Rochester, overseeing everyday operations of the local organization. Honor Flight Rochester is part of the 132-hub national Honor Flight, Inc. network covering 46 states, and is dedicated to transporting as many Rochester area United States military veterans as possible to visit the war memorials in Washington, DC at no cost to the veterans.

Honor Flight Rochester’s first mission departed in October 2008 with 20 veterans and their guardians. As of today, Honor Flight Rochester has flown 66 missions, escorting a total of 3,207 men and women veterans, proudly wearing their bold orange mission attire and uniforms, to visit their memorials. The next mission is planned for September 7 & 8, 2019. With their motto “We Leave No Veteran Behind,” Honor Flight Rochester continues to serve veterans from the greater Rochester area who eagerly await their opportunity. We encourage residents to support this organization and experience the power of attending a homecoming ceremony at the Greater Rochester International Airport. To all of our United States military veterans...thank you for your service. And to Honor Flight Rochester, thank you for your service to veterans and our community.

Last week I attended the 15th anniversary of the Penfield branch office of Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. This financial institution is a key foundation of the Four Corners Business District. I want to recognize Harry Gibbs and his entire Penfield team for all their support to our residents and business community in Penfield. I look forward to the next fifteen...congratulations!

Reminder…the next amphitheater event will be held next Tuesday, July 9 with “It’s My Party” on stage to entertain you. Since 1985, It’s My Party has been delivering a vintage 1960s experience, complete with a 14-piece orchestra and original songs written just for the group. Tight harmonies, vintage costumes, and retro choreography are all set to the highest standards of the 1960s girl groups. All programs begin at 6:30 PM at the Penfield Amphitheater on the Kiwanis Stage, located behind the Town Hall. I hope to see you there.

Important dates and events in history: July 1, 1863 – The Battle of Gettysburg begins on July 3, 1863 – Union forces win the Battle of Gettysburg; July 2, 1862 – Bugle call “Taps” is composed during the war between states; July 2, 1964 – Segregation is now abolished in the United States; and on July 4, 1776 – The United States declares its independence from Britain (by approving the Declaration of Independence).

Until next week, enjoy vacation time, a long weekend, and other time with family and friends. Be well and be safe!

Tony

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