Within the town of Penfield there are three separate Fire Districts. A portion of northeast Penfield falls in the North East Joint Fire District (NEJFD) that also includes some of the eastern part of Webster and Union Hill. The commissioners of the NEJFD have identified a need to construct a north station located at 600 Phillips Road to improve emergency services throughout the district. The overall project cost is $5,600,000 with a bond amount of $4,900,000. The bond vote will be held on Tuesday, July 24 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Webster Presbyterian Church, 550 Webster Road (Rt. 250). All registered voters residing in the NEJFD will be eligible to participate in the bond vote. For more information on this building project and a map of the district log on to www.nejfd.org. You may also contact the Monroe County Board of Elections at 428-1505 to see if you live in the district. Be informed and always exercise your right to vote!

Last week Bryan N. Podgorski of Troop 310 joined the Eagle Rank in a ceremony held at the Penfield Fire Hall. Over the past several years I have had many opportunities to speak with this young man and I must say he is driven. Beginning his scouting career in June 2006 and advancing to Eagle in May of 2012 is amazing. In that time Bryan received 23 merit badges and held many leadership positions. His Eagle project involved the building of a foot and horse bridge over a stream in Mendon Ponds Park. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, I would like to congratulate Bryan on this achievement and wish him all the best as he readies for his senior year at Penfield High School. Remember his name—he will be one of our strong and dedicated future leaders!

I recently had the honor of participating in the ribbon cutting and tour of Nucor House on Embury Road which was developed by CDS Monarch for the Warrior Salute program. This unique program helps service members and their families with personalized life and jobs transition support. Warrior Salute is a progressive service that helps veterans, our heroes and their families affected by post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury to regain their lives and dreams. Penfield is synonymous with community and the Warrior Salute program and Nucor House is all about community. To the residents of Nucor House, welcome to Penfield! To learn more about this cutting edge program, please visit www.cdswarriorsalute.org.

Finally its official! The town’s bicentennial celebration ended in December of 2010, and after a lengthy environmental review of Schauffelberger Park the Daniel Penfield statue was installed in the late fall of 2011. On a beautiful warm and sunny evening last Thursday, dozens of supporters gathered in the historic Four Corners to celebrate and formally dedicate the statue of our town’s founder to our community. I would like to recognize and thank the following for making this dream a reality: the bicentennial committee; sculptor Don Sottile; Town Historian Kathy Kanauer; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the Kiwanis Club of Penfield-Perinton; Southpaw Designs; the Town’s Parks and Facilities Department; and all the residents and friends in and around the Penfield community for their generous donations. This wonderful sculpture installation will be a point of destination and reflection for generations to come.

I am reminded by our local Fire Departments that we need to be very careful and mindful of our potentially dangerous habits during this lengthy stretch of dry weather. If you park your car on grass, be aware that heat from catalytic converters and exhaust systems can initiate fire. If you’re a smoker, please be sure to extinguish cigarettes properly and do not throw them out of a car window along the highway or an on/off ramp. Finally, make sure your charcoal or gas grill is cool before storing in a garage or on a lawn area. Fire safety is always critical, and it is even more so during current drought conditions!

Important dates and events in history: July 20, 1969 American astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first human to walk on the moon.

Until next week, I hope to see you out in this great community!

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