Recently, the Penfield community lost an icon with the passing of Guy L. McGowan, a life-long resident of our town. Guy graduated from Norwich University, entered the Army to serve our country, returned home to marry his wife, open his business and begin a 65-year career with the Penfield Volunteer Fire Co. Earlier this year I had the great honor to join Guy for coffee at Fire Station 1 to help celebrate his 90th birthday. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, we thank Guy’s daughter and the rest of the McGowan family for sharing him with Penfield; he will be missed but never forgotten.

I became aware of an amazing lady by the name of Lauren Coe, founder of One Soldier at a Time. This is a group that prepares care packages for U.S. troops overseas serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lauren started One Soldier at a Time when a friend lost a son who was serving our country. The group will be sending more than 200 care packages over the next several weeks to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. If you have an interest in learning more about this group to assist with time or donations, please check out their Facebook page at One Soldier at a Time. This is another fantastic example of Penfield community spirit!

This past week, I had the pleasure of meeting Bret Miller, Bay Waters District Executive with the Boy Scouts of America, Seneca Waterways Council. Bret is working hard to grow scouting in this area and to give our youth some lifelong skills. Over the years, countless scouts have performed community work and Eagle Scout projects that have added to the quality of life in Penfield. As we move closer to the start of the new school year you will see signs and advertisements to join scouts. For more information on scouting or how to sign up, please log on at www.senecawaterways.org.

I was very excited to see that Governor Cuomo signed a new law to strengthen enforcement against texting while driving. This law and new regulations will increase the fine up to $150 and three points on a driver’s license for using a handheld device while a vehicle is in motion. We need to help put a stop to this dangerous activity and to make our roads safer for all. Texting while driving can cause damage, injuries and even death. There are so many distractions to drivers today, especially our young drivers. I am not a fan of over-regulation or too much government involvement; however, with so many people not able to be detached from their phones and other electronic devices for more than a few moments at any given time, maybe a hit to the wallet for a fine, increased insurance costs or threat of a license suspension is the answer to help curb this bad and unsafe behavior!

FREE Family Movie night Friday, July 22 at Rothfuss Park join your friends and neighbors for a family movie night under the starts for The Karate Kid Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and a snack. The movie will start at dusk, approximately 8:30 PM.

The next passport night in Penfield is Thursday, August 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the auditorium. This very popular program, sponsored by Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo and Penfield Town Clerk Amy Steklos, gives our residents the convenience of filling out applications, having pictures taken and speaking with the experts on what needs to be done to issue a new passport or update an existing one.

The Penfield 100 Mile Walking Program update this program began June 6 and runs through September 30 with more than 200 residents and Town staff participating. Since this program started, I have logged more than 80 miles. It is never too late to start; pedometers and log sheets are still available at the Recreation Department. Once you log 100 miles submit your log back to the Recreation Department and you will receive an exclusive members only T-shirt! What are you waiting for? Take you first step today.

I hope to see you out and about in the community!

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