Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column  
July 30, 2018

Many of you may have heard from news sources that the American Red Cross is in emergency need of blood. While the need is constant, right now they are desperately low on blood supply, and all of us can help! Donating blood is an easy way to be a hero. No one wants to imagine it, but at any time it could be you or a loved one that needs lifesaving blood.

There are two donation opportunities in Penfield in the coming weeks: Tuesday, August 7 at Harris Whalen Lodge and Wednesday, August 29 at Penfield Community Center. Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins are also welcome! Each presenting donor will receive a $5 Amazon gift card.

Look for ways to make supporting the Red Cross fun...challenge your friends and family, create a blood donor club, chronicle your donation on your favorite social media, or make blood donation an employee service project!

This is the last week of the summer concert series at the Penfield Amphitheater and Kiwanis Stage. Bring the whole family to enjoy the lineup: Matt Chase & Thunder Canyon are featured on Upstage Tuesday, July 31 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM; Thursday Kids Fest will feature the Dady Brothers on August 2 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM; and this week’s Saturdays on Stage presents “Mr. Mustard” on August 4, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, snacks, and a cooler. Food will also be available from the PenRec food cart.

The final event of the amphitheater season is the annual “Tastin’ the Blues” on Saturday, September 15 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Steve Grills and the Roadmasters with Joe Beard will perform, and the ever-popular chili judging and beer sampling will be in full swing. I hope to see you there!

Congratulations to the Shepherd Home and Executive Director Ashley Tack on a very successful 8th annual Golf Tournament. The event raised very important funding for this community jewel that has provided compassionate end of life care to more than 175 residents since their doors opened in 2005. To learn more about this wonderful facility and how to further support their mission, please visit www.shepherdhome.org.

Budget 2019 update: This week will be a deeper review of equipment needs and replacements for 2019. DPW equipment tends to be the most visible with large trucks that are used for plowing and salting in the winter and hauling dirt, stone, and other debris the rest of the year. These trucks are each a $250,000 investment and we tend to run them for 15 to 17 years. There is always a balance as to when to purchase a new vehicle versus repair to ensure we are not over-investing in repairs. I would like to recognize our mechanics team that performs some creative work to get the most out of our fleet while ensuring we are managing costs and keeping the equipment safe.

As I mentioned last month, the month of August is a time to tighten all of the expense and revenue lines as we prepare for presentation to the public. I indicated last week that we would be presenting to the public on Wednesday, September 19. I apologize for the error, but due to the Yom Kippur holiday, we will be presenting the Tentative Budget to the public the week before, on Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00 PM at the town board meeting.

As we prepare for another upcoming school year, it is important to remind Penfield residents that the Penfield Public Library is a “Safe Place” community partner. Young people seeking assistance with housing, safety, or other crisis situations can come to the library to be connected with outreach workers from the Center for Youth who will assess the needs of the young person in question and access necessary services.

Important dates and events in history: August 1, 1870 – Colorado is the 38th state admitted to the Union; August 2, 1964 – US Destroyer Maddox is attacked in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin, beginning America’s major involvement in the Vietnam War; August 3, 1492 – Christopher Columbus sets sail to find a westward route to the east; August 4, 1790 – US Coast Guard is established.

Until next week be well and be safe!

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