Mark your calendar for a great event on Sunday, August 14 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. You can keep cool while learning cool things if you attend the Penfield Public Library’s “How-To Festival” featuring 20 stations demonstrating quick skills. Learn how to knot a plant hanger, craft frosting roses, play Pokemon Go, choose produce, select a family pet, administer basic first aid, research house history, and more. Refreshments will be provided and there will be door prizes ranging from library services to grocery store gift cards. The great team at the Penfield Library is always looking for new and exciting programs for our residents — please come join the fun!

This week completes Cool Jazz Tuesdays and Kids Fest Thursdays. The next big event at the Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage is “Tastin’ the Blues” on Saturday, September 17 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Enjoy music by Steve Grills and the Roadmasters with Joe Beard. Dundee will again provide a lineup of locally brewed beer samples — and of course there will be chili! If you think you have a winning chili recipe why not put it to the test? Perhaps your chili will impress our judges or be voted the audience’s favorite choice. My “Pride of Penfield” recipe will be bubbling away in hopes of a prize. I hope to see you there, it is always a great event!

Recreation Director Chris Bilow informed me that the third session of kids programs and summer camp is a huge success with 58 program offerings and 620-plus participants. The third day-camp session itself has 320 registered children, and overall attendance for summer youth programs will exceed 2,000 active participants. Great job by the Recreation Department and staff for continuing to grow and expand these programs for our residents…you all make a difference each and every week!

Speaking of activities for our youth, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our sponsors who give so much back to our great community in support of youth development. I encourage you to thank them as you visit their places of business. Sponsors are: Master Kim’s Tae Kwon Do Institute, Wickham Farms, Wegmans, Mathnasium, Penfield Library, Penfield Strikers, Gymnastics Training Center, Penfield Youth Lacrosse, Penfield Youth Wrestling, Penfield Central School District, Penfield Sport & Fitness, The Kids Miracle Making Club, Penfield Rangers, and Penfield Little League. All of these businesses and organizations are wonderful partners with the town and we thank them for their ongoing support!

Several residents have recently asked me about properties on Penfield Road where houses have been demolished and active construction is underway. Here’s the scoop: Houses at 2128 and 2132 Penfield Road (directly across from the main entrance of Wegmans) were demolished and a new U of R Urgent Care facility is under construction. A little farther east at 2142 Penfield Road (next to Summit Credit Union) is the new home of Eyesite advanced eyecare center which is relocating from Parkside Plaza. We welcome the U of R Urgent Care to our community and congratulate Eyesite on its new location in Penfield.

Here is another request to remember the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf during these busy summer months. Their need is still great this time of year. Vacations, kids’ activities, and other summer plans make our lives very busy and we may not think about this great organization as much as we do in the fall and winter months. It’s easy to help. Please go to www.penfieldecumenicalfoodshelf.org to view the current wish list of needed items needed. Thank you in advance for making a difference to Penfield neighbors in need.

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 2, 1990 – Iraqi forces invade Kuwait and operation “Desert Shield” begins.

Until next week please keep your fingers crossed for some much needed rain for our local farmers!

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