Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
August 14, 2017

In recent weeks some residents have asked me if there is any news to share regarding Dolomite/Oldcastle’s sale of Shadow Pines Golf Course. Many have also expressed their opinions on what they think the town should—or should not—do regarding the future of use of that property. The quick answer is that, as of right now, there is no news to share.

As you may recall the town board extended the golf course moratorium through March 2018 to allow more time for discussion between the property owner Dolomite/Oldcastle and the town. While this process has been active and ongoing it has also been slow and methodical. The town board and town staff have done their work to evaluate Dolomite/Oldcastle’s announced sale of the property. The Moratorium Committee has done its work and made its recommendations to the town board regarding the best future use of that property, including their recommendation that the town purchase Shadow Pines. For the past five to six months the town has been exploring the possible purchase of the property with Dolomite/Oldcastle. Discussions have included pricing, environmental considerations, uses, and the like. Should this move forward, there would still be many legal steps along the way including a public referendum for residents to weigh in on funding to make the purchase.

As of now, Dolomite/Oldcastle is considering the most current volley from the town and we await their comments and feedback. You can see this has been a lengthy and complicated process. I have attempted to share a high level snapshot of where we are.

As we have done throughout the process, when we have news to share we will update the Moratorium Committee directly and also post that information on the project page at www.penfield.org.

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 30 from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at the Penfield Community Center. Blood donors are needed now to meet the needs of hospital patients locally and across the country. This is a time of emergency need due to summer vacations when many are traveling and not able to donate. We ask all eligible donors to give blood at this upcoming local event to help offset a critical blood shortage that could leave patients without potentially lifesaving support.

To schedule your life-saving appointment, please contact 1-800-Red Cross, or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor keyword “penfieldcommunitycenter.” Thank you in advance for providing the gift of life!

Planet Fitness recently held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at their newest facility located in Panorama Plaza (formerly the home of Panera Bread and the Dollar Store, and for those of us who remember, the Panorama Movie Theater). Also on hand was NASCAR driver and Dayton 500 Champion Joey Logano, who signed autographs for more than two hours for eager fans, many of whom braved a rainy downpour to catch a glimpse of this star. Planet Fitness is another wonderful wellness facility in Penfield helping to grow our town as a wellness community for all ages.

If you think you recently saw many truckloads of dinosaurs—including a T-Rex—at Rothfuss Park you were not dreaming! Last week several more components of Jack’s Place, the new dinosaur-themed playground sponsored by The JACK Foundation in memory of Jack Heiligman, were delivered to their new home. Please check in at www.jack-foundation.org for the upcoming grand opening and dedication schedule. This one-of-a-kind playground will draw interest from all of our youngest residents!
The 2018 budget process is well under way, with the Tentative Budget due to be presented to the town board by our town comptroller and myself at the September 6 town board meeting. As has been the case in past years, we are seeing an increase in medical coverage costs. For 2018, costs are projected to be up by approximately 10.5 percent. Workers Comp insurance will remain relatively flat due to going out for bid and selecting a new carrier, while other general insurances are slightly up.

Several pieces of heavy equipment are being proposed for replacement in 2018. To give you a sense of the cost of some of this equipment, a new fully-equipped snow plow costs about a quarter of a million dollars! I will provide a weekly update on how the budget process is going from now through budget adoption on October 18.

This past Saturday I had the honor of being part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program entitled “BossLift.” ESGR is the link between members of the National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers. With almost half of our nation’s military strength residing in the National Guard and Reserve, the Department of Defense developed this program to assist the Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers to provide information, resources and assistance to resolve issues.

The program began bright and early with an aerial excursion provided by the US Army 642nd Aviation Support Battalion located off Scottsville Road. Briefings were provided by an active Lt. Colonel and a retired Major General about the ESGR program and the employer resource guide. It ended with a sumptuous lunch of MREs—that’s Meal, Ready-to-Eat—an experience all its own!

Rochester and Monroe County are fortunate to have so many members of the Guard and Reserve in the workforce. Why do they make good employees? Because they have a global perspective; are on-time, all the time; first class image; calm under pressure; can-do attitude; physical conditioning; and they understand diversity, responsibility, professionalism, and leadership. To all the men and women of the Guard and Reserve, thank you for your service, be well and be safe!

Until next week enjoy the summer, we are starting to see the fall approaching.

Tony

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