I had the honor of attending the eighth annual Terri Schmitt Legislative Reception at the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester. Terri worked tirelessly to make eradication of breast cancer a priority; she lost her battle in April 2002. The Breast Cancer Coalition’s mission is to provide support to those touched by a diagnosis of breast cancer, to make access to information and care a priority through education and advocacy, and to empower women and men to participate fully in decisions relating to breast cancer. As a son, husband, father of daughters and grandfather of granddaughters, this is a very important subject in our households. Please take time to understand the work this group does for our Rochester and Monroe County Community. For more educational information and details of services provided by this wonderful group, please log at www.bccr.org.

While we are on this very important subject, I was invited to attend a Congressional Cancer Summit last week in Syracuse sponsored by Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle and Gary Mervis, chairman and founder of Camp Good Days & Special Times. While I was unable to participate, I do know many local people that did attend this summit that is part of an important initiative: Cancer Mission 2020. The goal of this initiative is to bring together leaders in government, health care, cancer patient groups and other fields to discuss and plan how they can be part of a larger movement to cure and end cancer by the end of the decade. More information will be forthcoming on this initiative over the next several months.

Many of us may have seen the story of the Penfield Little League parent who captured the Hall of Fame Photo which will be part of the Little League Hall of Fame in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Jeff Griggs snapped a shot of Yankee catcher AJ Bartucca and pitcher Tommy Baxter as their team won the championship. Congratulations to the entire Yankee team and to Jeff Griggs for capturing such a special moment that will be part of little league baseball history for generations. This is yet another example of Penfield residents making a difference at all levels.

I recently attended a happy hour at the Atria Senior Living facility that welcomed Michelle Kennison, Kristin Judd and their new Executive Director, Kari Cameron, to the Atria team. I am always impressed with the energy and programming that exists in our senior living facilities. Residents and their families are indeed fortunate to have a facility like Atria in our town. Congratulations to Executive Director Kari and her team, and thank you for all you do for the Penfield Community.

Over the last several weeks our community has lost a number of residents whose lives were deeply involved with the Penfield community on many fronts—business, school, service organizations and more. On behalf of the entire community, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Mal Nulton, Margaret Urckfitz, John Turner and Bob Greco. Thank you for your service and dedication to this great Town of Penfield and for touching so many lives in a positive way, you will all be missed but never forgotten.

Keep an eye on your mail boxes—the 2011 Fall Edition of the Pen-Rec Brochure will be arriving within the week. This program brochure is filled with hundreds of opportunities for our youth, teens, adults, seniors, and families. Registration starts September 6th unless otherwise noted—enjoy!

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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