Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
August 27, 2018

I had the honor of joining Master Kim and his staff at Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute this weekend to observe 80 of our youngest residents, ages four to 12, as they participated in a “Stranger Danger” safety tips program. Master Kim invited me to speak to the children at the end of the program and—I must say—the work the students did preparing their posters and presenting what they learned was impressive.

Master Kim conducts several special programs throughout the year that focus on the safety of our children. Stranger Awareness helps teach them about being safe, alert, and smart in all situations. For more safety tips and information, please log on to www.thesafeside.com.

Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute is a benchmark in our community, working with our young residents to keep them safe by practicing their five tenets of courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Their program is designed to build character in the students and to train them to become confident and strong leaders.

This coming Saturday, September 1, our residents and visitors to Penfield will be given access to a portion of Shadow Pines north of Clark Road, known as the front nine of the former golf course. Access to the land is for passive recreation only; this includes hiking along a meandering trail from the first tee to the ninth green, birding, and ultimately cross-country skiing. Dogs on leashes are allowed and owners are expected to clean up pet waste. No bikes or motorized vehicles are permitted on any portion of the 212-acre property. The former back nine south of Clark Road remains off limits to the public. The town will begin cleanup of this area in the fall with a goal of granting access to that land later in the year.

The Bri-Pen senior ride program continues to be a wonderful service to transport individuals to medical appointments, religious services, and to the town recreation centers. Drivers are trained by Lifespan’s Give a Lift program and are given free supplemental car insurance. If you need a ride or would like to volunteer, please call 340-8674.

Time is getting short to make an appointment for the annual household hazardous waste drop-off service scheduled for Saturday, September 15 at the Penfield DPW, 1607 Jackson Road from 7:45 AM to 1:00 PM. Appointments are required and you can easily schedule online at www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark or contact the Penfield DPW office at 340-8710. Everything collected is properly recycled or disposed of and no harmful materials are sent to the landfill.

The Shepherd Home provides compassionate care to members of our community with terminal illness in a way that cherishes the dignity of each individual, while meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. They provide support to families and friends and foster community acceptance that dying is an integral part of living. If you have time and were thinking about volunteering, consider calling the Shepherd Home at 381-0890 or better yet, drop in; their team would love to meet you!

The next free scenic trek sponsored by the Penfield Trails Committee will be held Saturday, September 8 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Philbrick Park. Hike through this park on Irondequoit Creek and learn some history of the pioneer magnate of Penfield. Meet at the pavilion and look for the hike signs. All events are held rain or shine. For more information and to pre-register, contact the Recreation Department at 340-8655, option 0.

This coming weekend we observe Labor Day. Many individuals and families plan social activities and cookouts, as this holiday is typically considered the last week of summer as vacations end and school begins. It is important that we not forget what Labor Day stands for. The original holiday was meant to address a problem of long working hours and no time off. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day honors the American labor movement and the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws, and well-being of our country.

Therefore, if you “seem to be working all the time” and never really take a vacation, start a new ritual that honors the original spirit of Labor Day. Give yourself the day off. Don’t go in to work. Shut off your phone, computer, and other electronic devices connecting you to your daily grind. Then, go to a barbecue like the original participants did over a century ago, and celebrate having at least one day off from work during the year!

Tony

supervisor@penfield.org