Last week our Engineering Department attended the progress meeting for the Penfield Road Bridge project just west of Panorama Plaza. Two issues have delayed work on the project; first is the need to receive NYSDOT approval of a retaining wall, and the second is awaiting approval for curbing. We were informed that the deck will be placed in about two weeks and it will be made of a dense mix that requires a longer cure and dry time. The current schedule calls for the bridge to open to traffic by mid-October. Until then, we continue to encourage everyone to drive safely through the detour and respect walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

During my monthly review with the Sheriff’s Department Zone A staff, I noted that this summer Penfield has had an unusually high theft rate from vehicles. The other thing I noted was the fact that in most cases victims’ cars were left unlocked. Crime prevention officers of the MCSD encourage all residents to lock their vehicles, even when they are in parked in driveways. Keep any and all valuables hidden and out of sight. Officers also encourage us to never leave high value items like laptops, iPads and other electronic devices in locked cars because they create targets for breaking windows and doors of vehicles.

Recently we have been fielding a number of calls regarding the types of plastic bags and wraps that can be recycled. Data shows that 8% of garbage going into landfills is plastic bags and product wrap. To give you an idea what can be recycled along with your grocery bags, you can also recycle cereal and cracker box liners, dry cleaning bags, bread and produce bags, shrink wrap, drink cases and more. Do not include soil and mulch bags or bubble wrap. For more details, log on to [www.plasticbagrecycling.org](http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org).

On behalf of the entire community, I would like to give special recognition to John and Deborah Craft of Penfield who left Rochester last week in an emergency response vehicle that will be used for mobile mass feeding in Baton Rouge, La. over the next several weeks to assist those in need as a result of Hurricane Isaac. Penfield residents touch many lives across this country and throughout the world.

Another school year has begun; some students will be walking or riding their bikes to school, and many will be riding the bus. The greatest risk to students is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Drivers, please be aware of your surroundings, slow down and be alert to students waiting for their school bus. Children, be sure to get to your bus stop five minutes before your bus is due to arrive, and stand back at least six feet from the curb or edge of road so the bus driver can see you. Wait until the bus stops, the doors open and the driver says it is okay to board. Never walk behind the bus, and if you drop something near the bus, tell the driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you. Parents, please teach your children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer. For more school bus safety, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses](http://www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses).

Several reminders to note on your calendars: The annual Tastin’ the Blues is Saturday, September 15 from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Amphitheater; historic canoe rides with Rene Robert LaSalle through Ellison Park’s wetland on Sunday, September 16 from 12 to 4 p.m.; the 10th annual Family First Penfield 5K Challenge on Sunday, September 30 at 9 a.m. starting from the Community Center. For more information on these programs and scores more, please log on to [www.recreation@penfield.org](http://www.recreation@penfield.org).

Until next week, watch out for our young people at the many bus stops throughout our community.

Tony

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