This week marks the eleven-year anniversary of September 11. My interest is to make sure we never forget “those we lost, those who served, and those who carry on.” If you are at the Town Hall, please consider stopping by the 9/11 Memorial flag and garden at the Jackson Road entrance to Veterans’ Memorial Park near the Dolomite Lodge. Remember…we will not falter, we will not fear, we will not fail, we will not forget!

As a result of last week’s heavy rains, I have been reminded by our Highway Department to encourage all residents to be sensitive to keeping catch basins and yard drains free of leaves, sticks and other debris so these units may perform as efficiently as possible during rain events. Many of the backups and standing water in yards could have been reduced or eliminated if drains were operating properly. Also, no one is permitted to dump leaves and grass clippings in swales, drainage ditches or other water sources. Highway employees have observed many damming conditions as a result of improper or illegal dumping. Dumping in swales creates unnecessary drainage problems for entire neighborhoods.

The Friends of Penfield Public Library annual used book sale takes place this week beginning with a members-only opening day Tuesday, September 11, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (you can join at the door for $5.00). Public sale days run Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (half-price day); and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. featuring a $3.00 bag sale day (bag provided). All proceeds help supplement library operations. The book sale includes about 75,000 items, and even after four days of busy activity there are leftover books. In the past many books have been donated to outlets for those in need and other books were recycled. I learned the Penfield Library has a new outlet for used text books this year; they are sold to a local company creating a new, modest revenue stream for the library. The library also works with an out-of-state company to identify new markets for materials, keeping books in use and out of the recycling stream. All this provides additional revenue to help supplement library programs and operations. Penfield continues to be a leader in new ways to reuse, recycle and up-cycle materials. Congratulations to our Librarian Bernadette Brinkman and the Friends of Penfield Library on their leading-edge business model.

Community Wellness news—it is not too late to sign up for the 10th Annual Family First Penfield 5K Challenge X on Sunday, September 30. Check-in is 8:00 a.m. with a start time of 9:00 a.m. at the Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. The fee is $20.00 before September 24 and $25.00 after that. You may pre-register and pick up your race number and shirt Thursday, September 27 or Friday, September 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Recreation Department. You can also register online at www.penfield.org.

National Assisted Living Week (NALW) 2012 runs September 9 to 15, and this year’s theme is entitled “Art for the Ages,” bringing together residents, staff, family and the community to celebrate all the talents and creativity assisted living residents have developed through hard work and their love of art. Art inspires and brings pride and beauty to those who create and enjoy it. Music, painting, knitting, carving, model building and cooking are some of the many outlets residents have to express their creative sides. The National Center for Assisted Living established NALW in 1995 as a way to promote assisted living to the public. It provides a unique opportunity for residents, families, staff, volunteers, and the surrounding community to come together to celebrate and enjoy a variety of events that show the residents how much we care for and love them. I am honored to be invited by Atria of Penfield to kick off NALW at their facility to join residents for coffee and a discussion about local history and an update on what’s new and exciting in our great town. On behalf of all the residents of Penfield, I want to recognize every one of the assisted living facilities within this great community and thank them for everything they do each and every day to enhance residents’ lives.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony
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