The weather on Saturday was picture perfect for the hundreds of attendees who enjoyed the annual Tastin’ the Blues festivities. The music by Steve Grills and the Roadmasters with Joe Beard was fabulous, as it has been for the last decade!

A special thank you to all the chili contest participants and to those who won the judges’ and people’s choice awards. This event closes out the 2017 Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage series. I would like to recognize Steve Orsini of Penfield Recreation and all the staff who supported him in making this another wonderful season. The shell will be taken down over the next few weeks and stored for the winter, but rest assured the 2018 series is being planned and we look forward to another great season to kick-off in late May!

Last week I had the honor of attending the grand opening and ribbon cutting at the Hampton Inn on Panorama Trail South, the newest business to open in Penfield. Indus Hospitality Group and president Jett Mehta have moved their corporate offices to this location. I have heard from many residents who have had family and friends stay at this hotel. They rave about the staff, accommodations, and the location. Please join me in welcoming Indus Hospitality Group to the community of Penfield.

I want to give a shout-out to Laurie Broccolo and her team at Broccolo Tree & Lawn Care for the opening of the B-Friendly Farm at their garden center, 2755 Penfield Road. The B-Friendly Farm is an ecologically friendly agricultural educational destination. The farm supports both agricultural production and biodiversity working in harmony to improve the local community. The property features a butterfly house, laying hens, honey bees, and a wildflower field. Broccolo has included wonderful examples of sustainable landscaping using permeable pavers, walkways made of recycled tires, turf grass and gardens managed through integrated pest management practices, rain gardens, rain barrels, and a green roof. I encourage visits to their garden center, it is a great learning experience for all ages!

The 2017-18 school year is now well underway and family routines are getting back to normal, making this a good time to refocus attention on the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS). This wonderful organization provides assistance to more than 80 families on a weekly basis and there are a number of ways you can support their efforts. Your family, neighborhood, or business could adopt a shelf. You can donate when you order from Amazon, donate empty bottles and cans, donate your garden harvest, host a food drive, donate through the United Way, or make a tax deductible monetary donation. For more information on how you can support the PEFS, go to www.penfieldecumenicalfoodshelf.org.

Mark your calendars for the annual Penfield Community Bike Drop sponsored by Penfield Rotary and the Penfield Recreation to be held on Saturday, October 7 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Penfield Community Center. Used bicycles will be collected and donated to R Community Bikes, Inc., a Rochester based organization that repairs and distributes bicycles free of charge to Rochester’s needy children and adults. This is a great way to clean out your garage for the winter and donate those bikes, tricycles, big wheels and more to a great organization and a future bike owner!

The next Nels Carman Big Band Night is Tuesday, October 5 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Penfield Community Center in the gym. The fee is $1.00 at the door. The Penfield Rotary Band will play your
favorite big band sounds for dancing and listening. The dates for the rest of the 2017 performances are November 7 and December 5.

Until next week, enjoy this great warm weather! Visit a park, hike a trail, or explore a playground. This is a great time of the year to be outside and enjoying our community!

Tony

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