This past Sunday (September 23) Mary Cariola Children’s Center held its 10th annual “Walking on Sunshine” fundraiser at Veterans’ Memorial Park. It’s the third time the event was held on our beautiful campus. It was a gorgeous fall morning with a blue sky and bright sun shining down on more than 1,000 children, young adults, and families. This walk is Mary Cariola’s largest annual fundraiser, and this year’s goal was $175,000.

In addition to the walk, there were many games and activities for participants including face painting, music, raffles, team mascots, photos, and the Gamin’ Ride mobile video truck lunch. The event emcee was News 8’s Mark Gruba. President/CEO Karen Zandi welcomed and thanked everyone for their ongoing support of Mary Cariola Children’s Center which supports more than 500 children and young adults with multiple disabilities and complex medical needs.

On behalf of the entire Penfield community, we are delighted that this event is held at the Veterans’ Memorial Park campus and that the newest Mary Cariola’s residential home is located in our town. To offer support or learn more about Mary Cariola and the unique community services programs they offer to families—including residential programs, behavior management services, and enhanced waiver services—please visit www.marycariola.org.

Work continues at Shadow Pines. Last week the huge pile of trees, stumps, and limbs was ground into mulch. In October, DPW crews will begin to address dying, diseased, and dead trees on the south side of Clark and Whalen Roads as we look to open that portion of the property to public access before year-end. Our crews are also reviewing the status of eight HVAC units at the Clark House as we ready for the upcoming heating season. Additionally, the town board is working on a “solicitation of interest request for proposals” for use of the Clark House. We anticipate this process will take three to four months. As we move through the process I will keep everyone updated via this column and at www.penfield.org.

The Shadow Pines Land Use Advisory Committee will be reviewing and suggesting possible future land uses for the overall property. It is important to remind everyone that the town acquired the property with a designation of general municipal use—not park land. The designation of general municipal use allows the greatest flexibility for overall community and public use for our 36,000-plus residents, such as a combination of open space, passive and active recreation, a community center, library, lodge(s) or other public facilities.

Last week we started installing new and permanent bike racks for residents at locations throughout the town including the Penfield Community Center, Veterans’ Memorial Park, Harris Whalen Park, Rothfuss Park, Greenwood Park, and LaSalle’s Landing Park.

The October 4 deadline to register for the second annual Penfield Education Foundation 5K is fast approaching. Those who register by this date will receive a long sleeve cotton tee-shirt; the first 200 registrants will also receive a Nalgene water bottle. Please register at https://runsignup.com/race/ny/penfield/penfieldeducationfoundation5k.

The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf (PEFS) would like to remind families, companies, neighborhoods, and places of worship to consider supporting “adopt-a-shelf,” as one can makes a difference in someone’s life! For more information on how to adopt-a-shelf or to learn more about current needs, please visit www.penfieldfoodshelf@gmail.com or call 234-0799.

Here’s a last reminder to donate your old or unwanted bikes and keep them out of landfills...Penfield Rotary and Penfield Recreation are sponsoring their 8th annual Community Bike Drop on Saturday, October 6 at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All bicycles collected will be donated to R Community Bikes, Inc. for repair and redistribution to needy children and adults in the Rochester area. All types of
bikes are needed, including children’s tricycles, toddler plastic bikes, and bike parts. R Community Bikes, Inc. is a grassroots 501-c-3 organization that collects and repairs used bicycles for distribution, free of charge, to Rochester’s most needy children and adults. Its mission is to meet the basic transportation needs of those in the community who depend on bikes to get to work and training sessions, as well as for recreation. Receipts will be available. For additional information, please call Penfield Recreation at (585) 340-8655 or email Linda Kohl, Penfield Rotary at lkohl58@aol.com.

Until next week, continue to enjoy the fall weather and support all of our farm markets, their shelves are filled with locally grown products, baked goods, and much more…healthy local businesses make for a healthy community!

Tony

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