The 9th Annual Penfield 5K race is in the history books. On behalf of the entire community, I want to recognize and thank Family First Federal Credit Union and Eastside YMCA for partnering with the Town of Penfield on this wonderful event. I look forward to this race growing in popularity in the years to come to become one of the cornerstones of Penfield as a Wellness Community. Congratulations to the 160-plus runners of all ages every one of you is a winner!

As previewed in last week’s column, prior to the 5K race, we conducted a brief Army Community Covenant signing. The purpose of the Community Covenant is to foster and sustain effective state and community relationships to improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families. I must say, I underestimated the powerful message and excitement of participating in this program. While we never take for granted our freedom, our daily lives are filled with work, family, community and worship, and I am sure that at times we do not fully appreciate all the active, guard and reserve service members. I was honored to sign the Covenant on behalf of all residents of the town. If we have not said this regularly to those that serve thank you! Thank you for all you do to ensure our freedom and overall quality of life, and thank you to all your families for sharing you to help protect us each and every day. I would like to recognize Sergeant First Class Robert F. Heintzelman and his entire team for being part of our community.

This past Saturday, the County of Monroe dedicated and renamed the Ellison Wetlands as Lucien Morin Park. Lucien A. Morin was a County Legislator from 1967-1972; County Manager from 1972-1983; and then was elected our first County Executive in 1984 and served until 1987. During his tenure Morin is credited with acquiring more than 32% of parklands owned by Monroe County today a total of more than 3,900 acres. An information kiosk and bench are located at the entrance to the park, which can be accessed just behind MacGregor’s Restaurant on Empire Blvd.

We are reminded by Foodlink that September is Hunger Action Month. There are approximately 60,350 children in Foodlink’s service area that are food insecure meaning they are at chronic risk of not having access to food. Please join Foodlink and become part of the solution to this problem. Check out Foodlink’s 30 Ways in 30 Days calendar for ideas on how you can take action against hunger all month long www.foodlinkny.org.

Last Tuesday I had the honor and privilege of participating in the Community & Kiwanis Awards Dinner. The Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club presented checks to the following organizations: East Rochester Community Resources, Golisano Children’s Hospital, Mary Cariola Children’s Center, Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, Perinton Food Pantry, Rochester Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., the Don Mack Scholarship Fund, and the Shepherd Home. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. I would like to recognize and thank President Janice Gilbert, President Designate John Hanratty, and the entire membership of the Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club for everything you do, you are true community partners.

Alternatives for Battered Women will hold its annual press conference in commemoration of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Wednesday, October 5 at 10 AM at the Crime Victims’ Resource Center. For further information please go to www.abwrochester.org.

A few notes from the business community: First, the Penfield Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year on October 19th at the Penfield Country Club at noon. This year’s winner of the Business of the Year is Dick Ide Honda. Channing Philbrick, former Town Supervisor (1994-2003), is being honored as the Citizen of the Year. Next, Beyond Hardware, the local True Value home improvement store, will host its second annual Demos for Divas. This is a special event for women to learn more about the modern hardware shopping experience while supporting Gilda’s Club Rochester during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please remember healthy businesses make for a healthy community; please support all our Penfield businesses.

Until next week, enjoy the fall weather and be well and be safe!
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