Last week I attended the 2010 Business of the Year Awards, sponsored by the Penfield Business Association (PBA), featuring Kitty Van Bortel as the keynote speaker. Kitty turned a $500 investment into Van Bortel Subaru, Ford, and Used Car Center, one of the most successful and respected enterprises in the area. She is an inspiration to every business owner in our community and this region. The award ceremony included the “Daniel Penfield Award” with finalists Wally Ashnault, Jack Best, Sarah Jane Clifford, Dr. Tahmton Hormozdyaran, and Mary Anne Shew; the “Penfield Business of the Year Award” with the finalists Baker Commodities, Fairport Savings Bank, Family First Federal Credit Union, Mud About You, and the Penfield Fitness & Racquet Club. The “Daniel Penfield Award” went to Jack Best, of Best Times Financial Planning and the “Penfield Business of the Year Award” went to Family First Federal Credit Union. Congratulations to the award winners and all the finalists…healthy business makes for a healthy community!

Legacy at Willow Pond recently celebrated its tenth anniversary with a wonderful program that included an opening address and flag lowering, a “walk down memory lane,” and a proclamation I had the honor and pleasure of presenting on behalf of the Town Board and the entire Penfield Community. Legacy provides a caring environment, personalized care and services to ensure dignity and quality of life for its residents. Congratulations to the staff and all the residents on their tenth anniversary and for being part of this great community.

Each year the Recreation Department hosts an intern to work with the Town of Penfield as part of their college course requirements. The intern is responsible for putting together a “town-wide event” that includes everything from coming up with an idea, developing the program, and coordinating the event for the community. This year, Josh Dillon from SUNY Brockport joined us for his fall semester. His program will be “Backyard 101,” a family educational event on Saturday, November 6 from 11:00AM – 1:00PM at the Community Center. “Backyard 101” is a free and informative program designed to help families discover everything they want to know about the animals that call our backyards “home.” Kids can enjoy a nature craft, coloring contest, and animal face painting. For more information or to pre-register call 340-8655. To print the coloring contest image, log on to www.penfield.org. This event is sponsored by Wild Wings, Country Way Garden Center, The Bird House, and Seneca Park Zoo. Josh has a wonderful future in the Recreation field; please join us for this informative and fun event.

Fall and the month of October are synonymous with Fire Prevention and Fire Prevention Week. Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms, discuss fire prevention with all your family members, and practice EDITH (Emergency Drills in the Home). Nearly 3,000 people die in home fires in the United States each year. Cooking is the number one cause of home fires — we do not want anyone in Penfield to have to deal with a fire emergency or lose a friend or relative to a fire.

Last Week I had an opportunity to read a proof of the new “Memories of Penfield” book before it was sent to the printer, and it is terrific! This will make a wonderful gift for a birthday, holiday, Christmas, or special event. Live the history of Penfield through this fascinating collection of personal anecdotes, told by our wonderful residents past and present, and both young and old. “Memories of Penfield” is an oral history of the first 200 years. A special thank you and congratulations to John Taddeo for chairing this effort and to the entire Bicentennial Committee for this successful project.

Here’s one more reminder — change those batteries in all your smoke alarms and remember: “smoke alarms, a sound you can live with”!

I hope to see you in the community and please let me know what is working well and what we might be able to improve on to better serve you and your family.

Tony
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