Elizabeth McDade, MFA, Program Manager for the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, has asked me to remind the Penfield community that October 19 to 25 is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/nlppw.htm). As we enter the fall season many of us start to plan for those “inside” remodeling projects that will add pleasure to our time spent indoors in the coming months. Projects may include anything from major interior remodeling to repainting a room. If your home was constructed prior to 1978 there is no doubt that lead based paint was used. Have you tested or considered testing your home for lead? We now know that lead based paint commonly used before 1978 is highly toxic. Children exposed to lead based paint are at greatest risk for poisoning. If you have not done so, you can test your child for lead poisoning by asking your pediatrician to do a simple blood test at your next visit. Lead poisoning is a serious health problem; you can learn more about it and the associated risks at: www.epa.gov/lead.

The town board adopted the 2015 Final Budget at the October 15 legislative meeting. The budget of $15.9 million is $278,000 lower than the 2014 budget, keeping the 2015 town tax rate flat at $2.64 per $1,000 assessed property value, marking the sixth consecutive year at the $2.64 level. Penfield’s property tax rate remains one of the lowest in Monroe County. The Town of Penfield receives approximately $0.08 of each tax dollar (8 cents). I would like to thank all of the department heads, the comptroller, and the town board for their efforts in preparing a fiscally responsible budget that reduces spending and maintains services for our residents.

Join us for the Monday, October 27 Environmental Discussion Series presentation “Butterfly Gardens & Wildlife Habitats” from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the town hall auditorium. This program will help you create your own butterfly-attracting garden using the plants right outside your door! Butterflies are beautiful and important to your garden and our environment, and they are an essential part of our ecosystem. Bruce Zaretsky, Zaretsky & Associates, Inc. will be on hand to present information and answer questions on how to create butterfly gardens and wildlife habitats. While the program is free, participants are asked to register by calling Penfield Recreation at 340-8655 or go to www.penfieldrec.org. I hope to see you there!

The Penfield Rotary Club and R Community Bikes, Inc. thanks the Penfield community for donating 202 bikes at their 4th annual Bike Drop two weeks ago. Over the four years, this event has collected more than 1,000 bikes from our community. R Community Bikes repairs used bicycles for distribution free of charge to Rochester’s most needy children and adults. This is a win-win for everyone...thank you for your generosity, it makes a difference in so many ways!

The Penfield Players are commencing their 50th season with the production of Gore Vidal's The Best Man. This production will run from Saturday, November 1 through Saturday, November 15. Directed by David C. Woodworth, Vidal’s play tells the story of two politicians vying for their party’s nomination for president of the United States. William Russell, the ex-Secretary of State, is a wit and scholar with high liberal principles, beloved of the eggheads and suspected by practical politicians. Joseph Cantwell is a ruthless and hard-driving young man, a dirty fighter who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. Throw in the candidates’ advisers and wives, as well as the former president eager to hand-pick his successor, and what you have is a biting portrayal of American politics in all its ugly glory. There is a special “50th Anniversary” opening night dessert and coffee reception at 7:00 p.m. prior to the performance sponsored by Starbucks Coffee in Penfield. Show dates and times are as follows: November 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 8:00 p.m., and November 2 at 2:00 p.m. All performances will be held at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. To order tickets, please call the box office 585-340-8655 between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to charge by phone or go to www.penfieldrec.org, and choose “Registration & Reservation” then the “Browse Tickets” link and search by date. Select a performance and follow the prompts. Advance tickets ($12) must be purchased online or by phone by 4:00 p.m. of the Thursday prior to each show date. Availability cannot be guaranteed after 4:00 p.m.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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