The Center for Environmental Initiatives (CEI) hosts a program called "Green Drinks" in the Rochester area on the third Thursday of each month. Green professionals, business owners and like-minded individuals meet to network and share ideas about sustainability at various locations around the county. The Penfield Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee hosted the meeting last week and all I can say is WOW! The committee set up various stations with story boards highlighting several projects that have been completed to date across the town. These included the town’s near 20-year history with recycling, reusing and upcycling; the solar powered pump station off Creek Street; the pasture management program on the Rothfuss Farm for clean waterways; the electric car charging station at the Penfield Community Center; the rain garden at our public works facility adjacent to the 1000 Acre Swamp; and the upgrade of Harris Whalen Lodge that includes heated floor technology and permeable paver blocks for storm water management. I want to recognize the team responsible for the program: Phyllis Ely, Mark Valentine, Sabrina Renner, Sue Foor, Bob Kanauer, Bob Brumbaugh, Stacey Decker, Cynette Cavaliere, Jim Kreckman and the Rothfuss Family (Terry, Mary Lou & Heidi). Great job team, everyone I spoke with was truly impressed with Penfield’s efforts and creativity to date in the area for energy management and sustainability. If you would like more information on “Green Drinks”, or if you would like to have your name added to the email list, please visit CEI’s www.ceinfo.org.

As we embark on yet another heating season, I am reminded by RG&E to be wary of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure. They remind us to have a professional check heating systems, chimneys, flues and vents once a year. If you do not have CO detectors in your home, please consider adding them to provide early warning protection for your family. If you use supplemental heat from sources such as space heaters, fireplaces and emergency generators make sure you are following manufacturer’s instructions. Finally, never use a gas stove, oven or charcoal grill as an indoor heat source. For more information on CO please visit RG&E’s web site at www.rge.com.

Next week many of our children and grandchildren will be hitting the neighborhoods to trick-or-treat and we ask that everyone please pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of roadways. Kids tend to walk along curbs, cutting across the street to get to other homes. Many will be wearing dark costumes and they might not be very visible from the road. For more Halloween safety tips, please visit www.halloween-safety.com.

Please note: October 30 is the last day to postmark an application for an absentee ballot, and November 5 is the last date to postmark an absentee ballot for this upcoming election. If you have any questions or want to print a copy of the application for an absentee ballot log on at www.monroecounty.gov, under “on-line forms” click on “absentee ballot.” Please take the time to vote; it is your right and it does make a difference.

The Penfield Trails Committee, along with the Friends of Webster Trails, will sponsor a free guided hike on Saturday, November 10 at Big Woods Gosnell Preserve in Webster. The hike will run from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at Lake Road at the end of Basket Road. While this is a free hike, participants are asked to register by calling the Penfield Recreation office at 340-8655.

The Penfield Rotary’s Fall Charity Euchre Tournament will be held Sunday, October 28 with check in at 1:30 p.m. Play begins at 2:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Nucor House, the Warrior Salute transitional home for veterans in Penfield, as well as other Penfield Rotary programs. This year’s tournament will be held at the Legacy at Willow Pond, 40 Willow Pond Way. Tickets are $20 per person before October 26, or $25 the day of the event. For more information on this charity event, visit Rotary’s website at www.penfieldrotary.org.

Until next week, continue to enjoy the mild weather!

Tony
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