The Genesee Valley Recreation Parks Society (GVRPS) recently announced its annual award winners, and I’m pleased to share that Penfield was selected for two awards: a multimedia award for the “Penfield Photo Scavenger Hunt” from last summer, and a Program of Merit award for “Dogs Day Out” that was held at Tastin’ the Blues. Congratulations Sabrina Renner and Pam Gerace for all of your efforts in coordinating these programs. Once again, Penfield is recognized as a leader in program development!

Mark your calendars for Penfield’s Daytime Education at Recreation (DEAR) Arts and Craft Fair on Saturday, November 9 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. Vendors from Penfield and surrounding areas will welcome you with handmade goods for sale. For more information, please contact the Penfield Recreation Department at 340-8655.

A last reminder...The next Penfield Trails Committee hike will be held this Saturday, November 9 at Webster’s Whiting Road Nature Preserve. Meander through deep woods pockets along twisting watercourse glens winding toward Lake Ontario. This hike will begin at 10:00 AM and is expected to last about two hours. Meet in the west side parking lot midway between Lake Road and Shoemaker Road and look for the “hike” signs. While the hike is free, participants are asked to pre-register by calling Penfield Recreation at 340-8655, option 0.

The Penfield Town Hall and Community Center will be drop sites for this year’s “Matt’s Coats for Kids,” an organization started by the family and friends of Matthew J. Fitton who lost his life in a tragic car accident at the age of 20 in August 2003. To date, they have collected and distributed more than 9,000 coats and other needed items to area children in need. Matt’s family’s goal is to keep the good feelings that Matt shared with everyone by helping children. This year’s collection runs November 2 to December 2. Their FREE distribution days are Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 at the Brockport Fire Department. For more information, go to www.mattscoats.webs.com or call (585)721-5289.

Next Monday, November 11, is Veterans Day. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In 1954, after lobbying efforts by veterans’ service organizations, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the 1938 act that had made Armistice Day a holiday, striking the word “Armistice” in favor of “Veterans.” President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954.

Our military members risk their lives so we can live in a better country. For all our war troubles throughout history, we have depended on our soldiers to keep our country safe and free. They had to fight for their country, while also fighting for their lives. Any time we see or meet a veteran we should take a minute to thank them for their service to our country. I would encourage everyone, especially this weekend, to make it a point to reach out to a family member, friend, or neighbor who has served in the military to say “thank you for your service!”
The last two “Nels Carman Big Band Nights” of the season are scheduled for this Tuesday, November 5 and Tuesday, December 3 from 7:30 to 9:30PM at the Penfield Community Center. The fee is $2.00 and you pay at the door.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 5, is Election Day. Voting is the cornerstone of a democracy but sadly far too few people vote. The ability to vote allows citizens to act on their opinions and choices on a variety of issues. In the American political system, voting allows registered citizens to cast their choice for political leaders they believe can accurately make the choices that will better their communities. Please exercise your right to vote tomorrow...it does make a difference!

Until next week, please keep leaves out of the gutters and away from catch basins to avoid flooding on your property and that of your neighbors...thank you in advance for your assistance.

Tony

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