Based on a recent conversation with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department (MCSD) Zone A office, I want to update you on some recent statistics for east side communities as we enter the holiday shoplifting and car larceny season. In October of this year, there were 22 vehicle larcenies in Penfield, Perinton and Pittsford. Of those larcenies, 19 of the vehicles were left unlocked. Unfortunately, the November numbers will not be any better! The MCSD encourages everyone to PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS, even if you are only going to be a few minutes running an errand or if your car is sitting in your driveway.

One last reminder...Penfield residents may begin reserving lodges and shelters for 2016 on Tuesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. Lodges and shelters may be reserved in person; however, we highly recommend reserving online. You must have a Penfield Recreation household account in order to reserve, so please make sure you do this at www.penfieldrec.org BEFORE December 1 to avoid reservation delays.

From the American Red Cross—saving lives is important to you, but your time is valuable as well! Did you know that you can cut your time at the blood donation site by up to 15 minutes with the new American Red Cross RapidPass technology? With RapidPass, you can complete your pre-reading and health history online from your own computer at your convenience on the day you donate. Just show your pass when you check in and you will go right into the health history area. When it’s your turn, the staff will review any questions that require follow-up and conduct a mini-physical before clearing you to donate. It does not get any easier than that! If you already have a RapidPass, congratulations! If not, consider registering at www.redcrossblood.org.

The Town of Penfield’s annual holiday blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, December 23 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. All presenting donors will receive a long-sleeve Red Cross tee-shirt. Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment to give blood. To make an appointment, please contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and be sure to use your RapidPass. This holiday season, the American Red Cross urges individuals to “Give Something that Means Something,” give blood. #GiveWithMeaning.

Last weekend I had the extreme honor of representing the town board and our great community at the Braman Post 1229 of the American Legion to present a certificate of recognition to Penfield veteran Lt. Col. Colin D. Storey, who received the “Legion of Honor” from the government of the French Republic for his distinguished service in World War II. The “Legion of Honor,” established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, is a singular distinction honoring those who risked their lives to uphold the territory and ideals of France. Lt. Col. Storey is one of 93,000 recipients of France’s “Legion of Honor” appreciation. I salute Lt. Col. Storey and join the French government’s recognition of his service to their country, the United States, and all allied forces in World War II. Lt. Col. Storey is a true hero—thank you for your service!

Mark your calendar for the annual Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. A family pancake dinner will be available. For tickets, please contact the Penfield Recreation Department at 340-8655. Families can also enjoy free crafts, games, music, visitors from the North Pole, and much more! I hope to see you there.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony

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