I recently had the honor and pleasure of attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Austin Bryan Dailey of Boy Scout Troop 363. He has been an active member of scouting for more than 12 years. I first met Austin when he interviewed me over the summer to assist in the completion of his “citizenship in the community” merit badge. Austin is a senior at Webster Schroeder High School where he is a member of the school’s science Olympiad team and the concert band. Upon graduation he will be pursuing a mechanical engineering degree. For his Eagle project, Austin cleaned up and planted grass on the berm separating the Webster Rural Cemetery and the Goodwill Plaza. He also researched seven veterans from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. His project logged more than 125 hours and his research was published on the cemetery’s website. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, I would like to congratulate Austin for attaining the Boy Scouts’ highest rank...Eagle Scout! Congratulations also to his parents and Troop 363 for their support with this achievement.

Mark your calendars for these key dates: Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. begins online and in-person rentals of lodges and shelters for 2015. Please note, you must have an active household account with Penfield Recreation to reserve a lodge or shelter online. We recommend calling to make sure that is set up before December 4. Dates go quickly! More information about town lodges and shelters is available on our website at www.penfieldrec.org. Also, any lodge reservations for remaining 2014 dates must be made by calling the Recreation Office at (585) 340-8655, option 6.

On Friday, December 5 join Santa and your friends for the annual Holiday Celebration at the Penfield Community Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring your family for a tasty pancake dinner, tickets are just $4 per person. Tickets are available in advance at the Recreation Office or at the door. Then, beginning at 6:00 p.m., enjoy all the free holiday activities throughout the community center including crafts, music, games, visiting with Santa, a Christmas play, and more. I look forward to see you there! There is more...the Recreation Department has made direct contact with Santa’s Workshop, North Pole! Penfield children may send their letters to Santa Claus in care of Penfield Recreation. All letters must be postmarked no later than December 8. This gives Santa enough time to check your list to ensure a response by Christmas. (Be sure to include your return address.) Contact Penfield Recreation with your questions at 340-8655. Send letters to: Santa Claus, c/o Penfield Recreation, 1985 Baird Rd, Penfield, NY 14526.

The next Penfield Symphony Orchestra concert “Holiday Fun” is Monday, December 1 at the Penfield High School Auditorium. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. Tickets are available by calling 872-0774, logging-on to www.penfieldsymphony.org, or at the door. Please note that free rides to the concert are available from Lifespan by calling 872-0774.

The Penfield Business Association (PBA) has announce 2014 business award winners. The “Penfield Pride Award” went to Michael’s Valley Grill. This award recognizes a local business that rehabilitates an existing building to create a vibrant new look and positive addition to Penfield’s proud community. The “Daniel Penfield Award” recipient was Jeff Jennings of Jennings, Nulton & Mattle Funeral Home, Inc. This award honors a local business person who has positively impacted the Penfield business community through their community involvement, business practices, and overall character. The “Business of the Year” award was presented to Frontier Communications. This honor is given to a local business that has significantly contributed to the vitality and success of the Penfield business community. Congratulations to all award recipients and thank you for all you do each and every day to support the Penfield community.

Until next week, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving...it is a day of family gatherings to give thanks for our many blessings!