Last week I was honored to attend the Penfield chapter of St. Ann Community’s “Home & Heart at the Cathedral” annual Thanksgiving luncheon at the Dolomite Lodge. “Home & Heart” is a social adult day service that helps to meet the individual needs and personal goals of older adults by providing support services and social activities in a relaxed, homelike setting. The group is ideal for older adults and persons with disabilities who may have diminished physical or psychological capacity, chronic illness, memory problems, and also those who may be socially isolated or need help with personal care. The Director of Home & Heart of Penfield is Mary McDowell, who continues to keep the program interesting and fresh with field trips, educational activities, arts & crafts, exercise classes and much more. We are fortunate in this great community to have so many wonderful programs for all of our residents, regardless of their age and needs. Mary, I thank you and your staff, Home & Heart of Penfield, and the entire St. Ann’s Community for everything you do—you do make a difference.

The Penfield Public Library reminds me that there are many great programs planned for December. I will share a few that caught my eye. Kaplan’s practice SAT score giveback and SAT test strategies is Monday, December 10 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Kaplan representative will give tips and strategies to raise your score and will explain the roles of the SAT in college admissions. Registration is required and is open to grades 9 to 12; parents are also welcome to attend. Another is “Reading Power Play: Amerk Visit!” where families can meet one of the Rochester Amerks and their Moose mascot. The player will read a hockey story and there will be a demonstration of hockey equipment, a trivia game to win Amerks memorabilia and each family in attendance will be entitled to one free voucher for an Amerks game. For more information on these programs and many more, please log on to www.penfieldlibrary.org.

Our Recreation Department continues to maintain direct contact with Santa’s Workshop, North Pole, USA! Our youngest residents can send letters to Santa Claus in care of Penfield Recreation and we will make sure Santa reads their letter and returns a personal reply before Christmas. All letters must be postmarked no later than December 3. Please be sure to include your return address. Send letters to: Santa Claus, c/o Penfield Recreation, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield, NY 14526.

If you have been avoiding the Panorama Valley area and detour due to the Penfield Road bridge re-construction project, I am happy to report that the County Department of Transportation re-opened the road and bridge last week for normal traffic flow to and from this important Penfield business district.

As all of us are faced with holiday shopping, I encourage all of our residents to consider shopping locally. Our six business districts offer a variety of goods and services for most every age group and interest. Gift certificates to local restaurants are a nice alternative if you do not want to buy yet another tie for dad and a pair of gloves or mittens for mom. Healthy business makes for a healthy committee, please shop locally and support Penfield businesses—many of them support our clubs, teams, events and not-for-profits all year long.

My family recently took a load of materials including an old television, propane tank, fluorescent lights, scrap metal, bulk cardboard and documents for destruction to Monroe County’s ecopark. I continue to be impressed with this facility that is jointly operated by the County of Monroe and Waste Management. The staff is welcoming, friendly and always willing to help educate residents on what materials are acceptable for recycling—and they take most everything without fees. We only scratched the surface with what we brought over compared to what ecopark supports. Do you know ecopark accepts household hazardous waste by appointment with no fee? For more information on all they do, please visit www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark or call 753-7600 (option #3). There’s also a handy quick-link on the home page of www.penfield.org.

Until next week, I hope to see you out in our great community!

Tony
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