Mark your calendars for the next Flapjack Saturday Community Fundraiser to be held Saturday, December 17, 8:00 to 10:00 AM at the First Baptist Church of Penfield, 1862 Penfield Road. Join Santa for a breakfast to warm your body and a benefit to warm your soul. They serve an awesome “all you can eat” breakfast of delicious pancakes, pure maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, and more for just $4.00 per person and $3.00 for children 10 and under. December proceeds will go directly to the Shepherd Home, a two-bed comfort care facility in Penfield that provides hospice care to the terminally ill in a way that cherishes the dignity of each individual in their last weeks of life. For more information on the Shepherd Home, please go to www.shepherdhome.org. I would like to recognize the First Baptist Church of Penfield for making a difference in our community.

As I mentioned in last week’s column, our recent weather went from mild to wild in a 24 hour period, and we received more than 12 inches of snow. With the exception of some snow piles in parking lots, that storm has been quickly forgotten. If you did not get all of your fall chores completed, it appears as though we have at least one more week of rather mild weather coming our way. Please consider cleaning the last of the leaves out of gutters and storm water drains.

Also, if you experienced some lawn damage during the first plow, our DPW crews will make rounds in the spring to repair and seed all damaged lawns once the winter season has ended. With temperatures being so warm prior to the snow fall and no frost in the ground, it did not take much for blades to peel back the sod. Lastly, if your mailbox was damaged please contact DPW at 340-8710. Crews will repair ASAP to minimize any impact to your mail delivery.

One final note on winter weather: if you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, please make sure you or someone in your neighborhood is keeping it clear of snow to allow easy and unrestricted access by firefighters in the event they need to connect to it for an emergency. Keeping hydrants clear will save valuable moments. I will remind everyone of this fact many times during the winter months. Our volunteer firefighters thank you in advance for helping them to help you!

A few weeks ago I encouraged everyone to shop locally for Christmas trees, holiday décor, and gifts. My good scout friends from Troop 312 recently contacted me to say they are again ready to serve the community with a variety of wonderful trees—as they have done for many years. Troop 312 is based at Bill Gray’s on the corner of Panorama Trail and Penfield Road from the day after Thanksgiving until the trees are gone, typically just before Christmas. Don’t delay, that perfect tree is waiting for you to pick it up!

The last scenic hike of the season sponsored by the Penfield Trails Committee will be held on Saturday, December 10, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Thousand Acre Swamp. This guided hike will tour the paths and boardwalks of the Nature Conservancy’s Thousand Acre Swamp. A variety of habitats including woods, meadows, and a pond will be covered. This hike will emphasize winter nature lore such as identifying trees in their winter dress and looking for tracks and other signs of animals.

Meet at the rear of Penfield Volunteer Emergency Ambulance building on Jackson Road and look for HIKE signs. While all hikes are FREE, participants are asked to register by calling 340-8655. For more information about this hike and those scheduled for 2017, please go to www.penfieldrec.org. Also, the Trails Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with trail maintenance work projects. If you are interested in assisting, please email penfieldtrails@yahoo.com for more information.

Until next be well and be safe!

Tony
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