I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends over the long weekend. I also hope you were able to travel safely during the wintery mix we experienced at the start of the holiday.

I have been reminded by the fire marshal’s office, as well as many concerned citizens, to ask residents to adopt a fire hydrant this winter to aid firefighters servicing our community. If you have a hydrant on or adjacent to your property, please keep it clear of snow for the safety of your entire neighborhood. If firefighters have to take valuable time to clear a hydrant of snow, they will be delayed getting water on a fire. Please do your part to assist these men and women who do so much to protect our residents…thank you in advance!

Speaking of public safety, it is important that all properties are identified with a visible address to make it easier for Fire/Police/EMS to locate homes and business during an emergency. Actual digits are the easiest to spot versus a written-out number. Please consider your distance from the roadway and size your number accordingly. The code requires a minimum of five-inch characters, and an outside light above the number assists responders in property identification.

I would like to thank the Penfield Business Association for placing the Christmas tree in the Four Corners at Schaufelberger Park and for hosting a tree lighting ceremony December 2. A special thank you to Evergreen Forest for donating the tree, Jim Kreckman and his team from the town of Penfield, Frontier Communications, Affaire de Chocolat, Shepherd Home, Penfield Financial Group, and MetLife Auto & Home, for helping to make this special holiday event possible.

Last chance…the Penfield Recreation department will host its annual holiday celebration this Friday, December 6 at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event will include Santa’s all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage dinner. Penfield families are invited to enjoy free holiday-themed crafts and games, special visitors from the North Pole, pictures with Santa, and a musical performance by Mike Kornrich. I hope to see you there!

A recent edition of the Rochester Business Journal (RBJ) celebrated the honorees of the 19th annual “RBJ Forty Under 40” awards. These young professionals have made noteworthy contributions to the Rochester Community. Three recipients are Penfield residents. I would like to recognize Gregory Coughlin, partner Harter Secrest & Emery LLP; Jason Garlock, partner, director of investments Cobblestone Capital Advisors LLC; and Steven Vogt, implementation project manager at MediSked LLC. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, congratulations on being honored as “Forty Under 40” honorees!

Watch your mailboxes over the next week to 10 days for the Winter/Spring 2014 Penfield Recreation Brochure. This publication will be filled with programs, trips, special events, sports activities, and much more. Registration begins January 2 unless otherwise noted. Do you know many programs have reduced prices for registering online at www.penfieldrec.org?

In closing, I challenge us all to make an important difference in our community this holiday season. Please consider making a donation to the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf with non-perishable food items or a financial donation. Please also consider giving the gift of life by donating blood to the American Red Cross.

Enjoy your week; the winter season seems to be upon us. Drive safely, watch out for our children waiting at bus stops, and drive with caution near plows.

Tony
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