Earlier this year the town’s Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) met a Penfield sixth grader by the name of Marisa Zwick who has a tremendous amount of passion for cleaning up her community. She was saddened to see the amount of litter impacting ponds, public spaces, and the environment.

This started Marisa thinking about what she and her friends might be able to do to address the problem of litter, and so began her journey to clean up Penfield. With the help of her parents, friends, and a supportive teacher, Marisa began her mission to inform residents of the issues related to litter and challenge us all to be more responsible for our actions.

That brings us to this fall, when the EEAC toured the High Acres Landfill. We invited Marisa and her father to join us so she could “follow the flow” first-hand to see what happens to garbage from the point of curbside pick up to the landfilling process and then beyond to the production of electricity generated from methane gas produced by the landfill. It was an impressive tour for our entire group. Members of the Waste Management leadership team met Marisa that day and learned of her mission to eradicate litter—they were impressed with this young lady! I learned that last week a representative from Waste Management personally delivered an “environmental care package” of gloves, hats, garbage bags, and more for Marisa and her friends to use as they venture out to clean up Penfield.

I would like to recognize and thank Marisa for all she has done to keep Penfield looking great by picking up litter and debris around town. I also want to acknowledge Nicole Fornof, Waste Management Public Affairs and Jeff Richardson, Waste Management District Manager, for supporting Marisa’s efforts. Thank you Marisa for leading by example, and a special thank you to Waste Management for your commitment to our community!

Members of Boy Scout Troop 312 attended the December 7 town board meeting and presented the town with two beautiful wreaths to decorate the doors of the town hall. On behalf of the town board and all visitors to the town hall, thank you Troop 312 for your generous donation and contribution to the holiday spirit at 3100 Atlantic Ave.

Blood donors are needed to meet the needs of hospital patients locally and across the country. Holiday shortages could leave patients without potentially lifesaving support. This includes children fighting cancer, older adults battling chronic illnesses, and trauma victims struggling to survive. The next opportunity to give blood in Penfield is Wednesday, December 21 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM at the Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road. For other donation center locations, please go to redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The third annual outdoor Menorah lighting will take place Tuesday, December 27 at 5:30 PM in the Four Corners at Schaafelberger Park. This event is open to the entire community; donuts and potato pancakes (latkes) will be served to all who attend.

Please note, town offices will be closed Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; and Monday January 2.

On behalf of the Penfield Town Board and all town staff, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Tony

supervisor@penfield.org