As I was preparing to write my last column of 2015, I found myself reflecting on how fortunate we are in Penfield. On a regular basis, I drive around different portions of the town at lunchtime to see first-hand what is happening by way of development, improvements, activities, and programs. I would like to share my observations of this great community with you.

The school systems (Penfield and Webster) that support and teach our youngest residents are second to none in the county. We are also blessed to have several private schools that help to round out this very important educational element.

The Penfield Business Association and Penfield Chamber are moving in a direction to join forces to be one of the strongest business associations on the east side. All of our businesses are a key cornerstone to the health of Penfield. By supporting them, they are able to give back many times over supporting our youth and various charities. A healthy business makes for a healthy community!

Our faith communities are a great source of encouragement and strength for many of our families to help shape the ways in which we view the world, form our values, and influence the practices that guide our daily lives. Three hundred and sixty-five days a year they are there for all of our needs.

The various service organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary, and others) have supported our community for more than a century. Members of these organizations are continually giving back on many fronts to support youth, education and reading, fighting disease, growing local economies, and much more.

The Penfield Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its diamond jubilee anniversary this season, is a gem. For the past 60 years the PSO has given the Penfield community a first class concert experience...close to home! Every great concert comes with affordable tickets and free parking!

Neighborhood associations and a variety of garden clubs spruce up subdivision entrances and other key locations throughout the town. One in particular that comes to mind is the work that the Nature Craft Garden Club performs at the corner of Five Mile Line and Whalen Roads for all to enjoy as they traverse that area.

It is unfortunate that communities need the support of a food shelf; however, from time-to-time families may need extra help due to job loss, illness, or another significant life changing event. The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf is a shining light in what might be a very dark time for a family in need.

The Shepherd Home is a two bedroom home that operates under the hospice philosophy, providing 24-hour care for the terminally ill in a residential setting. They provide support to families and friends, and foster community acceptance that dying is an integral part of living.

Penfield is quickly becoming known as an east side medical hub with many new medical offices, labs, and treatment centers opening up to support all aspects of the community with state-of-the-art facilities.

Sports organizations support our youth with dedicated volunteers and outstanding facilities that are producing talented athletes from the sports of baseball, lacrosse, soccer, gymnastics, football, cheerleading, and more. Many of our young athletes go on to become high school and college stars.
The scouting program in Penfield is one of the healthiest in the county. As I compare notes with my peers, no other community seems to be producing the same number of Eagle Scouts in Boy Scouts or Gold and Silver Awards in Girl Scouts. I am honored each year to attend most every one of these award ceremonies.

I know I have only scratched the surface of the many great things about Penfield. I realize this is not a complete list of the wonderful volunteers, organizations, and institutions in our community. If I missed a component please accept my apologies, it was not intentional.

The biggest reason Penfield is a “first class” community is because of all of you! All of our residents contribute in some way to make Penfield one of the most desirable places to live, work, raise a family, and retire. Thank you for making my job one of the best jobs there is and thank you for allowing me to support you as your town supervisor.

From the town board and all of the town employees...have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Tony

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