Town of Penfield Supervisor’s Column
December 28, 2016

At the town board’s last legislative session of 2016 we recognized sisters Madeline “Mary” and Elizabeth “Liza” Cotter with Certificates of Recognition in appreciation of their outstanding volunteerism in the Penfield community and beyond. These two young ladies have supported their community through programs like Life Conquerors...Beat the Odds “Re-Run” Shoe Drive for third world needy and U.S.A. homeless -- many hundreds of pounds of footwear has been shipped to recipients this year. The Cotter sisters have placed donation boxes at the Penfield Town Hall (3100 Atlantic Avenue) and Penfield Community Center (1985 Baird Road), so please consider cleaning out your closets and donating new or lightly worn shoes of all types and sizes.

Additionally, Liza has spent time in Nicaragua helping to build schools and homes. She told me, “...the work is hard but very rewarding.” Nicaragua, Central America’s largest country, is known as “the land of lakes and volcanoes” with a diverse climate that includes hurricanes. While the majority of Nicaraguans remain below the poverty line, the country boasts a very low crime rate. Mary will be making a trip to Nicaragua in 2017.

On behalf of the town board and the entire community of Penfield, I would like to recognize and thank both Mary and Liza for their energy and commitment to helping people near and far. Their efforts are a shining example to all and we are proud to count them among Penfield’s finest citizens.

Last week I shared with you the story of Marisa Zwick, the sixth grader who has been cleaning up litter in Penfield. A neighbor, Roger McKeon, has been following Marisa’s story and asked to meet with her so he could thank her for her efforts and to share an award he received in 1985 from the Monroe County Conservation Council for “sportsman conservationist of the year” for doing similar work of cleaning streams and waterways. Mr. McKeon also wanted to make a donation to Marisa’s efforts to help purchase supplies like bags and gloves to encourage her with the ongoing project of cleaning up Penfield. This is another wonderful example of how different generations continue to give back to our community for the good of future generations.

The Penfield Recreation 2017 winter/spring brochure has been delivered to homes and is also available online. Please check out all the programs to help start your new year on a healthy note! Registration will begin January 3 for most programs. Sign up early! Many popular programs fill up quickly. For more information and details, go to www.penfieldrec.org.

The next guided hike sponsored by the Penfield Trails Committee will be held January 9 from 10:00 AM to noon at Ellison Park. Meet at the Blossom Road entrance and look for the HIKE signs. While all hikes are free, we ask that you please register by contacting the Penfield Recreation Department at 340-8655. If there is snow please bring cross country skis or snowshoes. Please, no pets on the hikes!

As we prepare for the start a new year, please connect with the Town of Penfield to stay informed. Be sure to follow community news at www.penfield.org for this column, live streaming and recorded video of town meetings, event calendars, links to social media (Facebook and Twitter), and much more.

Important Dates and Events in History: December 31, 1970 – The United States begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam; December 31, 1999 – Panama gains control of the Panama Canal from the United States; January 1, 1863 – President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves.

As 2016 comes to a close, I wish to thank all of the residents of the town for allowing me to serve you as your Town Supervisor. It is an honor and responsibility I never take for granted. From my family to yours, I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you around the town in 2017.

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