October is well known as fire prevention month, with fire prevention week running October 7 to 13 this year. There are **five simple things** that you can do today to help protect your family from fire: **Conduct a smoke alarm audit:** Test your alarms and be sure they can be heard in bedrooms even when doors are closed, replace alarms that are more than 10 years old, and replace any alarm that has been painted over. **Make extinguishers handy:** Your number one priority is to have an escape plan and to get out safely. If the fire is small and contained, and the room is not filled with smoke, get everyone out and call the fire department; then, you may use the fire extinguisher to control the fire. **Talk prevention with your kids:** Speak to your kids about how they can prevent fires—never play with matches, lighters or candles, never play with electrical cords, and never put anything in a socket. Blankets and clothes should never be thrown on top of lamps. Don’t turn up a heater without a grown-up’s permission. Tell them if their clothes catch on fire, they should “stop, drop and roll!” **Look at your home from your child’s perspective:** Think about how your child sees potential fire hazards in your home. Do you see any dangling cords that could cause a problem if pulled? Are there enticing heaters or other appliances? Make adjustments to your home according to what you find. **Avoid overloading electrical sockets and cords:** If you see sockets with too many cords plugged in, or even too many extension cords in use around the house, it may be time to have extra outlets installed by a professional. With all the activities our families are involved with on a day to day basis, it is easy to overlook some of these common prevention tips. Please take some time over the next week to make this fire safety audit a family event for everyone’s safety.

I was honored to attend the Penfield Rotary Club meeting last week when they honored retired Penfield School Superintendent John Carlevatti for his dedication to the Penfield Central School District and the Penfield Rotary Club. John was joined by his wife Karen as he accepted the award from Rotary. John and Karen also informed us that they are new grandparents! John, congratulations on the award, and thank you again for your service to the Penfield community, and enjoy that new grandson.

Congratulations and thank you to Bob Kanauer from the Town’s Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee for coordinating Penfield’s first “National Plug In Day” last week at the Community Center. Many electric vehicles, including an electric motorcycle, were on hand; and several experts answered questions and shared information. If you have any further interest in this subject, I encourage you to log in to [www.pluginamerica.org](http://www.pluginamerica.org).

I would like to give a shout out to Dave Hennessey, cross-country coach at Penfield High School and a member of the Section 5 Cross Country Hall of Fame. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, Dave is the country’s all-time leader in cross country coaching wins with his recent 900th win. Congratulations Dave on this impressive milestone, and congratulations to all the students whose lives you have touched over the years, you have made a positive difference!

It’s not too late to fill out the Penfield Recreation community needs assessment survey to help us shape the future of Penfield Recreation. You can complete the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/PenfieldRec](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PenfieldRec), it will take less than five minutes of your time. Hard copies of the survey are available at the Recreation Office and Town Hall.

A few dates to keep in mind: Penfield Community Bike Drop-off is Saturday, October 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Fall Drop-off is Thursday and Friday, October 11 and 12, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Public Works Complex, 1607 Jackson Road.

Until next week, I look forward to seeing you out in our great community!

Tony
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