



## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of October 9, 2017

In observance of both National Fire Prevention Month this October and National Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14) now is the perfect time to review and re-learn some basic fire safety rules that can help save lives.

Most fatal fires happen between midnight and 8AM, and fires become deadly fast. Every second counts during a fire; so here are a few tips for increasing the chances of you and your family remaining safe and secure.

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Pick a spot outside where everyone will meet once they have gotten safely outside. Make sure everyone knows and understands the escape plan, including baby sitters. Everyone should learn how to lock and unlock all the doors and windows as well.
- Every house should have a life-saving smoke detector. It is recommended that you have one on every floor and place them near sleeping areas and close to the kitchen. Apartment dwellers need to be responsible for providing and maintaining their own smoke alarms. Once an alarm sounds, you may have less than two minutes to get to safety.
- Make a point of changing the batteries in the smoke detectors once a year. Pick a date that you will remember—like your birthday or the day that you change your clocks for daylight saving time. Never take the batteries out to use them in a toy or flashlight.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- In the event that there is a fire—the smoke alarm sounds or you see smoke or smell something burning—instruct everyone to get out of the dwelling immediately. Do not stop to call the fire department. If a door feels cool to the touch it is safe to open it. Otherwise look for one of the other ways out.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

By following these guidelines, Village of Hempstead residents can better protect their home and the lives of those around them. Should a fire ever occur, rest assured our world-class Fire Department is always on the ready to respond quickly and with maximum efficiency.

### This Week's Best of Hempstead

This week's Best of Hempstead honors are extended to Sentinel Innovation, a local business that pre-dates the Civil War. The year was 1858 when John Hentz, a Hempstead Village resident John Hentz began the publication of *The Queens County Sentinel* in his barn with the desire to serve his local community. During the next five generations Sentinel would evolve from *The Queens County Sentinel*, *The Hempstead Sentinel*, Sentinel Printing and now Sentinel Innovation.

In its first 100 years, Sentinel helped businesses bring clients through the doors by printing meaningful ads in its newspaper and by bringing information to all residents about great things that were happening, such as the South's surrender at Appomatox or VE Day. Today, Sentinel Innovation helps businesses by partnering in their success, the success of their print and marketing efforts.

As a business with a conscience, Sentinel's focus on the community has never wavered. It continues to serve in a variety of business and philanthropic organizations and participates in a number of sustainable organizations, including one that allows Sentinel to reforest its paper consumption.

Since 1997 Sentinel has been led by CEO Glen Boehmer who has more than 30 years of industry experience and continues to carry on the name and excellent business practices the company has espoused for the past 158 years. Recently, Sentinel was recognized with a special award for its longevity and service to the community at our Business Appreciation Day celebration held in front of Village Hall. Congratulations to Sentinel Innovation for that well-deserved award and for also being named as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead