

## From the Supervisor

### New Zoning Code Provides for Improvement; Protects What We Care About

This is a welcome opportunity for me to express my gratitude to the people of Pittsford for sharing your views with me and the Town Board over recent years, as we've put together a new Comprehensive Plan and subsequently, as we've revised our Town Zoning Code based on that Plan.

Your advice throughout both processes is what has made possible a new Zoning Code that embodies the views, interests and wishes of the broad consensus of our community.

Town Board approved a revised Zoning Code on March 16, culminating an open and public process. Just as we held a series of open workshops for the Comprehensive Plan, the Board met in a series of special public sessions to review and revise the Zoning Code section-by-section, with two public hearings on the full revision. Your comments and clearly expressed preferences directly defined our Comprehensive Plan and the new Zoning Code based upon it.

Clearly the views of elected officials are influential in shaping public outcomes. Yet representative government shines most admirably when its priority in pursuing results rests not so much on what *we* think, but on what **you** think. Our new Zoning Code honors that principle, both in what it changes and in what it doesn't. It's a plan for continual improvement, that lets Pittsford be Pittsford.

Here are the principal substantive points of our new Zoning Code:

**Residential neighborhoods:** Residential neighborhoods won't change. Neighborhoods of single-family homes will stay that way. As per existing Code, houses can't be modified to include a separate apartment, and the rule remains one house per lot.

**"In-Law" Suites:** The Code makes it easier to provide a suite for privacy for a parent or other family member, in a way that doesn't create a separate apartment within the house.

**Attached Houses:** For new construction on currently unbuilt tracts, the revised Code gives broader scope for single-family attached houses, like Greenpoint Trail and Alpine Ridge. This would not apply to new construction in existing residential neighborhoods of single-family detached houses.

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Bill Smith  
Town Supervisor

## Inside:

- Free Spring Cleaning Recycling Drop June 7
- Free Mulch for Residents
- New Copper Beech Park
- New Chief Code Enforcement Officer
- Town Events for 2025
- Rules for Parks and Open Spaces After Dark



## Town Spring Cleaning Recycling Drop

Collecting electronics, scrap metal, paint and clothing  
Paper shredding on site

**Saturday, June 7**

**Pittsford Mendon High School • 9:00 am – 12 noon**

*Free for Pittsford residents, see inside for details.*

## From the Supervisor

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**Incentive Zoning:** The new Code builds into the existing Incentive Zoning law new provisions to encourage more moderately priced market-rate housing for people in or approaching retirement age.

**More Housing Variety:** The new Code extends Incentive Zoning opportunities Town-wide. This can allow for greater density and thereby for housing priced more moderately than what has been available traditionally.

**Monroe Avenue Commercial Corridor:** The new Code offers a comprehensive vision for improving the Monroe Avenue commercial corridor. The goal is to create a mixed-use commercial district with a more village-like feel and of more walkable scale. To do this it provides for storefronts at the street and parking to their rear, with housing above the streetside storefronts. In addition to the mix of commercial and residential, the new Code provides for a greater variety of businesses, including micro-breweries and boutique hotels.

**Keeping Chickens:** The revised code permits keeping chickens, within reasonable limitations, on residential lots. Households keeping chickens must maintain a coop sited at least 50 feet from neighboring property lines. Regulations for keeping bees also have been included.

**Parking:** New parking regulations promote less asphalt and more landscaped islands in areas of redevelopment, as well as stronger guidelines for the provision of pedestrian connections in parking lots.

**Lighting:** New dark-sky lighting regulations protect residents from intrusive light from adjacent properties. These regulations benefit wildlife and the environment as well.

**Former Golf Courses:** Our Zoning Code now provides that, if a golf course closes and sells its land, the density of any housing to be built will be substantially consistent with existing residential areas, with requirements for open space and buffering. This rezoning makes no changes to existing golf courses or their operations. It makes a difference only if a golf course goes out of business and sells its land for development.

**Environmental Stewardship:** The new Code encourages and provides compatibility guidelines for beneficial environmental practices and infrastructure, such as solar energy systems, electrical vehicle charging stations, installation of geothermal and more.

You'll find the new Zoning Code on the Town website here: [www.townofpittsford.org/zoningcode](http://www.townofpittsford.org/zoningcode).

The new Code includes other changes you'd expect: in formatting, such as consolidating definitions for ease of reference; revising citations to State law as necessary, clarifying sections where experience showed the existing language to be ambiguous, deleting outdated or obsolete provisions; accommodating new practices and preferences of residents that have emerged since the last Zoning Code update in 2009.

Like so many of you, I hold a deep appreciation of what we have here in Pittsford in terms of open space and the balance between suburban and rural. I grew up in a place where I watched, from boyhood to early adulthood, as what was once a substantially rural corridor became almost completely paved over. It left a lasting impression: that there had to be a better way. One better way we found in Pittsford was by enacting the Greenprint, that preserved two-thirds of the farmland in Town when we enacted it in 1996. Land that remains open and protected.

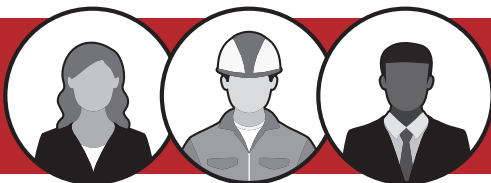
Although our new Zoning Code doesn't involve the Greenprint farms – it doesn't because they can't be built upon – it rests on the same foundation: a sensibility broadly shared among Pittsford residents about how, consistent always with the rights of property owners, land use at each place in Town affects the whole community; how it can add to or detract from that unique collection of characteristics that make Pittsford recognizable as the place we've chosen to live.

The great strength of our new Code is that it represents the wishes of the overwhelming majority of our community. You expressed it in our public sessions for the Zoning Code, and earlier in the Community Survey and public workshops that shaped our Comprehensive Plan. We've respected your wishes.

Now it's the duty of our Town Staff and Volunteer Boards to apply the new Zoning Code and to educate the public about it. It's my duty and the duty of our Town Board to continue to honor your wishes by upholding and preserving our new Code.

*I can do my job best when you let me know what you need and what you think needs attention. Please contact me whenever the Town can help. Let me know your suggestions for improvements in Pittsford. I maintain an open-door policy in the office, answer my own phone unless I'm in a meeting or on another line and have a monthly Saturday open house for residents at the Library's Fisher Meeting Room. You can reach me at (585) 248-6220 or by email at [bsmith@townofpittsford.org](mailto:bsmith@townofpittsford.org).*

# We're Hiring!



The Town of Pittsford posts various job openings throughout the year. You'll find complete information about current opportunities on our website at [www.townofpittsford.org/hr/pittsford-employment-opportunities](http://www.townofpittsford.org/hr/pittsford-employment-opportunities). For details about applying, visit our Human Resources web page at [www.townofpittsford.org/hr](http://www.townofpittsford.org/hr).

## New Copper Beech Park Dedication June 25

Our Copper Beech Park, located at 14 State Street in the heart of the Village, is still the Town's smallest park, but we've made some exciting changes! We'll be celebrating with a ribbon-cutting and a food and music event on Wednesday, June 25, 5:00pm-7:00pm. A beautiful newly expanded area off of North Main Street is connected by walkway to the original Copper Beech Park on State Street.

The new Copper Beech Park area features a pergola for shade, game tables and café tables. New lampposts complement the Village's traditional streetlamps. The plaza patio is screened with native plantings, including multiple garden areas featuring native shrubs, grasses and flowering plants. And of course, we've retained a convenient spot for one of Pittsford's favorite suppliers of hot dogs and other treats, Harladay Hots! The new space accommodates food trucks, too. The new park area offers improvements and carries on the legacy of our original, iconic Copper Beech tree. It includes a tree cultivated from a cutting from the original copper beech. It now grows where it will thrive and give enjoyment to generations to come.

Join us June 25 and check our eNews and website for more pop-up events at the park this summer!

## Anthony Caruso is new Chief Code Enforcement Officer



Anthony Caruso has been promoted to Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal and Emergency Services Manager for the Town of Pittsford.

Anthony joined the Town staff in early 2022 as a Building Inspector and later trained for and received his NYS Code Enforcement license. He brings a strong background

in code enforcement, building inspection, fire safety and general contracting knowledge to his new position and is truly dedicated to serving his community. A part-time police officer for two municipalities, Anthony graduated at the top of his Police Academy class. He previously gained valuable experience as an engineer for Monroe County and has been an active volunteer firefighter with the Bushnell's Basin Fire Department.

A certified Code Enforcement Official, Anthony's responsibilities also include fire safety and property maintenance inspections, review of building construction and alteration plans and permits and construction inspections. He'll be the Town's liaison with local fire and emergency services as well. Congratulations Anthony – well deserved!

## Spring Cleaning Recycling Drop is June 7

*Collecting electronics, scrap metal, paint and clothing*



To make it easier for you to get rid of many items that could be recycled instead of being put in the trash, the Town has organized a Spring Cleaning Drop on Saturday, June 7 from 9:00am to noon at Pittsford Mendon High School. **It's free for Pittsford residents!** Town staff will collect electronics, scrap metal and paint for recycling. We'll provide secure document shredding as well. Women's Club of Pittsford volunteers will collect clothing items and linens.

### Electronics Recycling

- **Accepted items include:** computers and computer accessories (keyboards, mice, etc.), laptops, mobile devices, printers, video, audio and stereo equipment, televisions, wiring, cables, and **rechargeable** batteries
- **Not accepted:** please do NOT bring small or large appliances; we cannot accept toasters, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers, hair dryers, irons, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, etc., or **non-rechargeable** batteries

### Paint Recycling

- Paints, primers, stains, sealers and clear coatings such as shellac and varnish will be accepted
- Must be in the original container with original label, covered with a secure lid
- Please do NOT bring aerosol coatings/spray paint, solvents and industrial/non-architectural use paints

### Scrap Metal Recycling

- Accepting various metal items made of steel, stainless steel, iron, cast iron, copper, brass, or aluminum – including siding and gutters, wires, pipes, electrical components, insulated wires, sheet metal and other items made of metal (no large appliances)

### Certified Document Shredding

- Secure shredding, personal/residential documents only
- No need to remove staples or paper clips

### Clothing Donations

- Used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets and curtains will be accepted
- Items that are no longer wearable/usable will be recycled

Help us keep discarded items out of the landfill and put to good use – stop by our Spring Cleaning Drop! Find a complete list of items that can be accepted at [www.townofpittsford.org/springcleaningdrop](http://www.townofpittsford.org/springcleaningdrop). Pittsford Mendon High School is located at 472 Mendon Road.



## Town of Pittsford Climate Action Plan

Promoting a healthy environment is a central policy of the Town of Pittsford. It has been for decades. We've been environmentally conscious since before it was cool.

Over time, both technology and new opportunities at the state and federal levels have allowed the Town to build on its record and carry forward its environmental commitment. A recent example is our Climate Action Plan.

The Town's Climate Action Plan addresses climate protection. It promotes energy savings and advances community goals for public health and safety. It will assess the Town's current climate protection initiatives and identify potential action items in several key focus areas, including municipal operations, waste and recycling, renewable energy, and preserving existing resources.

The Town's Department of Public Works and the Environmental Advisory Board have completed the portion of the Climate Action Plan covering municipal operations. We're grateful for assistance throughout this process from the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. The Plan incorporates advice from other agencies and from students at Rochester Institute of Technology, who worked on data regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

Altogether it's the result of a detailed and studious process that involved many hours of research, analysis and planning by all participants. You'll find this plan for a greener future for Pittsford on the Town website at [www.townofpittsford.org/climate\\_action\\_plan](http://www.townofpittsford.org/climate_action_plan).

Thanks to all who contributed to this central component of our Climate Action Plan, to everyone working on the next part and to you, our residents, for helping to keep Pittsford green.

## Thanks to DPW – on the Job in All Seasons

### From Town Supervisor Bill Smith

Our Department of Public Works teams – Highway, Parks, Sewer, Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement and Building Maintenance – are on the job and in the field year round. This past fall the leaves fell quickly. Such large quantities all at once made pickup and parks maintenance more challenging. Unusually cold temperatures and more ice than usual put additional demands on our teams as they worked to keep our roadways, facilities, sewer system and public areas safe, accessible and functioning properly. As spring arrived, parks work started. So did spring lawn debris pickup. Summer kicks off a full schedule of road work. Through it all our teams are ready no matter the weather, no matter the challenge. Always giving their best to serve our residents. My thanks to our DPW team members for all you do in making public works operations and services run smoothly and effectively, and for your deep dedication to the people of Pittsford.

*Bill*



**Get your passport at the Spiegel Community Center  
or at Pittsford Wegmans**

**Complete six trails and get a Wegmans reusable bag**

**Complete all eight trails for a chance to win a Wegmans gift card**



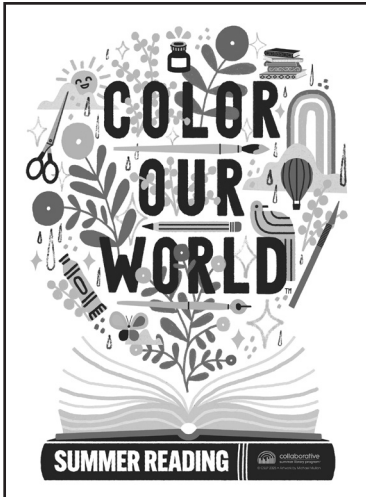
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**Keep up to date on Town meetings, projects, programs,  
services and events – sign up for our weekly eNews.**

**[townofpittsford.org/enews](http://townofpittsford.org/enews)**



## Pittsford Library: Ready to Serve You



Our Pittsford Community Library's impressive 2024 annual report shows just how much it enriches our community. In 2024 our Library served nearly **315,000** patrons at the Library and almost **4,700** more at outreach events. It loaned out more than **548,000** physical and digital books and other media. It provided access to **445,300** articles through digital

newspaper subscriptions. It hosted over **1,000** events and programs and staff thoughtfully answered more than **37,500** questions. Whether you're looking for a quiet space to study, an engaging community event, doing research, or looking for the latest bestseller, Pittsford's Library is here to serve us all.

Our Library staff is gearing up for the summer season – learn all about Library programs, activities and resources at [www.townofpittsford.org/library](http://www.townofpittsford.org/library). And be sure to sign up for the **Summer Reading program** – it inspires reading and features activities and prizes for kids, teens and adults. **Registration begins June 16.**

## Erie Canal Bicentennial

### *Pittsford to Celebrate the Erie Canal Bicentennial*

When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, it was recognized as one of the great engineering marvels of its time. The Canal connected the Hudson River to the Great Lakes and drove commercial growth of the young United States by making trade between the East Coast and the Midwest faster, easier and reliable.

Town and Village Historian Vicki Masters Profitt, our Library staff, the Village and Historic Pittsford are planning various events to celebrate the Erie Canal Bicentennial this fall. **Get ready to celebrate all things Erie Canal this year.** You'll find **historic presentations** and a **children's story time on the canal**. Senior programs include a **"Songs of the Erie Canal" concert** and a **lunchtime Erie Canal Trivia Quiz**. Events will include an **Erie Canal Walking Tour**, an **Erie Canal history table at the Food Truck and Music Fest**, and an **All American Picnic at Schoen Place**.

Join the fun and celebrate this unique part of Pittsford's heritage. We'll let you know more as plans continue to come together.

## OPEN SPACE & PARKS RULES FOR AFTER DARK

### Know the rules, respect the neighbors

Several neighborhoods in Town have experienced problems due to large gatherings after dark in Town parks and open spaces. The problems include adjacent streets clogged with cars, noise and underage alcohol use.

The Town, School District and the Sheriff's Office have partnered to prevent such problems from happening, and to address them immediately when they do.

#### Know the rules for Town open spaces and parks after dark:

#### • **After-dark gatherings are illegal in Town parks and open spaces, except for:**

- Athletic games at Thornell Farm Park and events booked at King's Bend Park
- All other parks and open spaces are closed after dark
- Alcohol is prohibited in Town parks and open spaces, with the exception of reserved events at King's Bend Park
- If you are in a park after closing, or in an open space like the Lusk Farm Recreation Space by Mill Neck Lane and it is after dark, you are trespassing and may be ticketed
- If you are underage and found drinking in any of our parks and open spaces, you will be ticketed

We're glad to welcome young people to our parks and open spaces. To ensure their safety and to respect nearby neighbors, please make sure your kids understand and follow the rules and laws related to Town lands.

## Town Events for Summer 2025!

### Paddle and Pour Art & Music Festival

**Saturday, May 24, noon – 10:00pm**  
**North Main Street Bridge**

Live music, regional craft beer and wine, art and artisan marketplace, family activities, various food items, and the annual Pittsford Regatta competition.

Featuring performances by Bob and Rick Music, Son Henry, The Grove Street Band, The Swooners, and Shine. More information at [www.paddeandpour.org](http://www.paddeandpour.org).

### Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony

**Monday, May 26, 10:00am**

Parade along Main Street, ceremony will follow at Pittsford Cemetery.

### Meet the Machines

**Saturday, May 31, 10:00am – 12:00pm**  
**Spiegel Community Center Parking Lot**

Meet the amazing machines that you see working around Town!

### Copper Beech Park Dedication

**Food and music in the park**  
**Ribbon-cutting June 25, 5:00-7:00pm**

Check website and eNews for additional pop-up events this summer!

### Summer Concerts

#### Along the Canal

**Friday Nights June 6 – August 22, 6:30pm**  
**Carpenter Park at the Port of Pittsford**

Featuring:

Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland Jazz Ensembles, BeatlesRoc, A Girl Named Genny, JUMBOshrimp, 198th Army Band, Europa (Carlos Santana tribute), Frank Torchio and the Scarbrough Orchestra, Claudia Hoyser, Deepak Thettu, Pittsford Fire Department Band, The Downtown Men (Billy Joel tribute).

### Concerts for Kids

**Wednesday Nights, 6:30pm**  
**Spiegel Community Center Pavilion**

July 16: John Dady and John Ryan

July 30: Mr. Loops

August 13: Mike Kornrich

### Family Outdoor Movie Nights

**Thursday Evenings at dark**  
**Spiegel Community Center field**  
*New location this year*

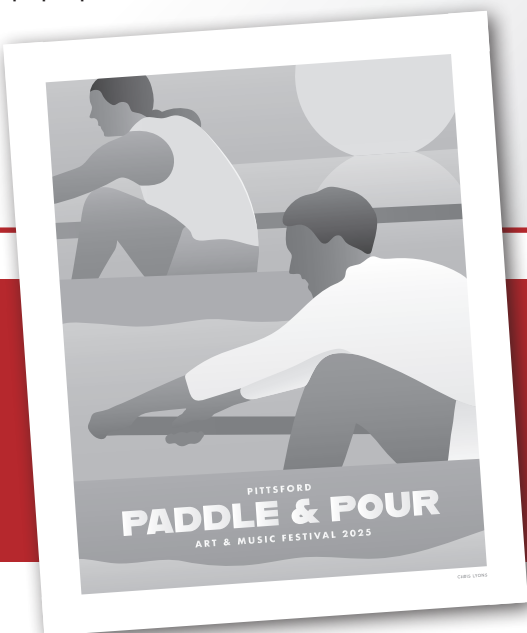
July 10: Moana 2

July 24: IF

August 7: Inside Out 2

August 21: Sonic 3

**See our Events mailer** sent to all Town and Village households in late April, **or visit** [www.townofpittsford.org/events](http://www.townofpittsford.org/events) for full Town event details.



## Paddle and Pour 2025

Limited-edition poster by local artist Chris Lyons for sale at the festival and at Town Hall.



## Lawn Care Tips

Pittsford has a policy of eco-consciousness. Every year, on all 3,000 acres the Town maintains, the Town uses a smaller amount of chemical herbicides and pesticides than just one house on a half-acre lot that employs a lawn service.

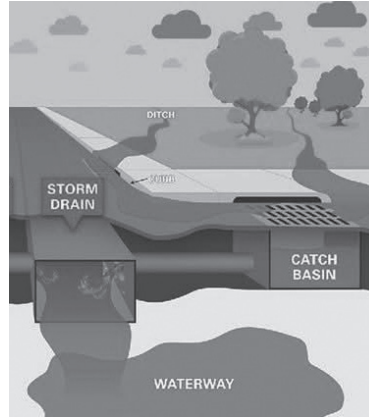
You can maintain a beautiful lawn without chemicals! If you have a lawn care contract, review it this spring to see if you can skip the chemicals. And please check out Pittsford's **Toxic-Free Lawn Challenge**. Participants in the program:

- Avoid non-organic pesticides and herbicides.
- Use organic-slow-release fertilizer only in the fall.
- Avoid spring and summer applications, which stress lawns.
- Raise their lawnmower blade to three inches or higher, return clippings to the lawn, and keep blades sharp.
- Develop healthy soil. Instead of using chemicals, add a top layer of organic materials and aerate every 1-2 years.
- Water only in the morning, if at all.
- Consider planting native plants. Native plants require less water and care and don't need chemicals to thrive.
- Patch bare spots quickly to avoid weed growth.

For more lawn care tips and to join the Town of Pittsford's Toxic-Free Lawn Challenge, visit [www.townofpittsford.org/toxicfree](http://www.townofpittsford.org/toxicfree). And visit [www.townofpittsford.org/pollinator-pathway](http://www.townofpittsford.org/pollinator-pathway) to learn how you can help our pollinator friends. We can all do our part to protect wildlife and the environment!



## Only Rain Down the Drain



Please remember that our **storm drains discharge water directly into nearby streams**. Dumping materials like pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, car oil and cleaning products into storm drains pollutes our watershed, degrades water quality and harms wildlife and habitats.

**Please help make sure that "only rain goes down the drain."**

**Dispose of chemicals properly** – take paints, oils and household chemicals to appropriate disposal facilities. Don't pour them down the storm drain.

**Pick up pet waste** – it contains harmful bacteria that should not enter storm drains.

**Sweep, don't hose** – clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom to prevent debris from washing into drains.

**Use fertilizers and pesticides responsibly** – apply only when needed and never before it rains, or they'll end up in the drain.

**Fix car leaks** – repair oil and fluid leaks to prevent runoff pollution.

**Wash cars on the lawn or at a car wash** – prevent soapy water from flowing into storm drains.

**Plant native vegetation** – it helps absorb rainwater and filters pollutants.

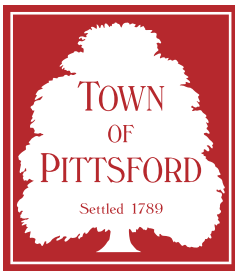
**Keep yard waste out of streets** – leaves and grass clippings clog drains and carry nutrients that harm waterways.

Take these simple steps to protect our local waterways, wildlife, and community health and you'll be an H2O Hero! Remember, storm drains lead directly to rivers, lakes and oceans, with no treatment in between. Let's work together to ensure that only rain goes down the drain. Learn more at [www.h2ohero.org/only-rain-down-the-drain](http://www.h2ohero.org/only-rain-down-the-drain).

## Free Mulch for Pittsford Residents

Ever wonder what happens to all that wood and leaf debris the Town picks up? **We grind it into mulch for you! You can pick it up, free of charge, at the East Street storage bins** (enter at 34 East Street). You'll find the bins just before the gate to the Town Parks Department's offices. If you can haul it home, it's yours. Mulch is great for gardens as it helps retain water, suppresses weeds without toxic chemical use and improves soil structure, drainage and nutrient use.

Through the Town's yard debris recycling program we reduce landfill waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. We help protect ecosystems and wildlife and are able to offer residents the practical benefit of **free mulch**.



11 South Main Street  
Pittsford, New York 14534  
(585) 248-6200

**Supervisor**

William A. Smith, Jr.

**Town Board**

Kim C. Taylor

**Deputy Town Supervisor**

Naveen Havannavar

Cathleen A. Koshykar

Stephanie M. Townsend

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The Pittsford Messenger Summer 2025

[www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org)



**Clip and Save!**



## Tips for a Safe & Healthy Summer

Time to enjoy the outdoors. When you do, please keep your safety in mind.

- **Wear a helmet, follow the rules of the road, and ensure you can be seen when bike riding. Make sure your kids do, too.** Reflectors on the back of your bike, a light in front and bright clothing help make you more visible to motorists. For the safest ride, the bike frame should be the right size for the rider. Wear helmets when using scooters and skateboards, too.
- **Keep pets, and yourself, safe from the heat** – hot weather can be dangerous for anyone, especially kids and pets. Don't leave either unattended in a hot car. When it's 70 degrees outside, a car can heat up to over 100 degrees in just 20 minutes! When the air temperature is 77 degrees, asphalt reaches 125 degrees. If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for paws! Keeping hydrated in the heat is important for pets and people alike – be sure you both drink plenty of water. Access to a shady spot or a cool area indoors during the hottest part of the day is important for us and our pets. Know the signs of heat-related illness.
- **Pool safety** – pools should be inaccessible when not in use (locked, fenced, etc.). They should be supervised at all times when children are swimming. Be sure to use a pool alarm.
- **Campfire safety** – never leave a campfire unattended. When you're done with a fire, douse it with plenty of water, making sure all of the embers – not just the glowing ones – are thoroughly wet. Always have water available. If you don't have enough water, use dirt to bury the embers. All fires should be at least 15 feet from anything that could burn. Extinguish the fire when you retire!
- **Get active outdoors** – getting outside and keeping active is good for the mind, body and spirit. Summer is the perfect time to try a new activity or get back into the routine of a familiar favorite. It's also a great opportunity to enjoy outdoor games or sports with family and friends. Have fun, and be sure to remember the sunscreen.

Enjoy a safe summer!