



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of January 14, 2019

Next Monday, the nation will celebrate the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Here in Hempstead Village we will pay tribute to Dr. King during our annual parade, which will be held on Monday, January 21 starting at 9:00 a.m. The parade begins at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) and will end at Miracle Christian Center (334 Fulton Avenue) where a brief ceremony will follow. For more information about this event, please contact Juanita Hargwood at 516-478-6286.

We will always cherish Dr. King's accomplishments. Although 2019 will mark 51 years since his death, his ideals and examples continue to sustain us as we work towards true freedom and equality for all. Remembering the man and his ideals not just on his birthday, but every day, is the greatest gift we can ever give to him. And ourselves. I hope you can join us in honoring his legacy by attending our parade on January 21.

***** There are also two other important upcoming events (see details below) that I wanted to remind residents about. Both are expected to play a role in the future quality of life and economic well-being of our Village so I encourage our residents to attend.

- **Brownfield Redevelopment Public Meeting** – Hosted by the Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA), the meeting will explore redevelopment opportunities of brownfield areas in the Village. Brownfields are former industrial or commercial property sites that are no longer in use. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 23, at the Hempstead Public Library (115 James A. Garner Way), starting at 5:30 p.m.
- **Hempstead Community Land Trust Public Information Session** – Residents are invited to join us and learn more about how the Land Trust will help revitalize the community by developing and stewarding affordable housing, community gardens, civic buildings, commercial spaces and other assets in Hempstead Village. This meeting will take place on Thursday, January 31 at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) starting at 5:30 p.m.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Bryan Jones. Known as "BJones" or "UncleB" to those whose path he has crossed, including more than 10,000 youngsters he labels as his nieces and nephews, this humble man is a classic case of someone who truly believes in the importance of giving back to the community.

A fixture in Hempstead since the 1970's, BJones has a long history of organizing and running events in and around the Village covering a wide spectrum of interests. For our youth, he has conducted countless basketball tournaments and other activities such as weightlifting competitions. In 2006 he created Hempstead Day, a free event that was held annually through 2010, which drew more than 5,000 attendees each year and offered a potpourri of activities that included health and job fairs, car and art shows, food and entertainment and more. The event also provided positive exposure for Hempstead's police, religious institutions and local businesses and allowed them to closely interact with the community. BJones has also presented a number of talent search and showcase events and for the past 12 years has hosted an annual Christmas Feast for those less fortunate on Christmas Day.

BJones, your efforts have provided a beacon of light for our future. In everything you do you never forget the common man and woman and your selfless actions deserve to be recognized by being named one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead