



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of February 25, 2019

As part of the Village's participation in the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) the Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA) recently created a Community Empowerment Resource Center (CERC) to help simplify the process of connecting the community with vital information and a vast array of services that could literally transform lives.

Located at the offices of the Hempstead CDA at 50 Clinton Street, Suite 504, there is never a charge for using CERC computers or referral services, searching the database of programs and benefits, or speaking to one of the knowledgeable resource officers. CERC will work with individuals one-on-one to direct them to local programs developed to address whatever you and your family may be facing. CERC will guide you through the application process and provide additional support along the way – all free of charge.

CERC was developed to help individuals and families overcome moments of challenge and uncertainty. The mission at CERC is to be that elevating and guiding force to drive positive change for Village residents. As a one-stop hub, CERC serves as a strategic connection to the many agencies, service providers and resource partners supporting the Village of Hempstead. CERC offers access to programs, benefits and empowering services that span a broad range of community needs and help break the cycles that work against progress. General areas of service provided by CERC include:

- Social Support: Emergency Housing, Transportation, DSS Assistance
- Economic: Financial Literacy, Housing/Homeowners Assistance, Business Planning
- Health & Wellness: Assistance with Medical Needs, Nutrition Assistance
- Workforce Development: Job Training & Placement, Career Counseling, Resume Writing
- Justice: Intervention Programs, Re-entry Assistance, Legal Support Services
- Education: Academic Enrichment, Language Support Services

For more information about CERC, please visit www.villageofhempsteadespri.org or call 516-667-6986.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Hildyne Bowens gets the nod for this week's Best of Hempstead honors. Born and raised in Hempstead Village, Hildyne has spent almost her entire 84 years living here. After graduating from Hempstead High School in 1954, Hildyne went away to college and graduated in 1959 with a B.S. Degree in Elementary and Music Education from Cheney University of Pennsylvania, the nation's oldest historical black college.

Hildyne started her teaching career in Maryland but in 1963 was drawn back to Hempstead Village and after teaching in Bay Shore for about 10 years, spent the next 20 years teaching mostly 5th and 6th graders at several schools in the Hempstead School District until she retired in 1993. Along the way, Hildyne also earned a Master's Degree in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Her late husband, Leonard, was also a school teacher specializing in music and served for many years as the organist at Jackson Memorial AME Zion Church, under the leadership of Rev. Malcolm J. Byrd.

Besides her distinguished teaching career, Hildyne served for several years as the Village Historian during the administration of former Mayor Wayne Hall where she shared her extensive knowledge of the Village's African-American history with residents. For over 74 years Hildyne has been an active member of Union Baptist Church, under the leadership of Dr. Sedgwick V. Easley. Hildyne is also the director of the Hempstead Acapella Ensemble, a community choral group made up of singers from local churches that performs spiritual music focusing on African-American history at various functions in and around the Village, including a recent performance by the group at the Hempstead NAACP Black History Month event.

Hildyne has been a long-term member of the Hempstead NAACP and is a member of both the National Association of Negro Professional Women's Club-Central Nassau Chapter and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Nassau Alumnae Chapter. Over the years Hildyne has received many awards, including the Shero Award for community service in 2018 from the National Coalition of 100 Black Woman of Long Island.

Hildyne, your contributions as a teacher and active member of the community have helped make Hempstead Village a better place for all of us. It gives me great pleasure to bestow another accolade among your long list of accomplishments by recognizing you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead