



## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of March 4, 2019

As part of the Village's ongoing efforts to provide quality parks and recreational services to Village residents a number of improvements have been implemented or are in the works.

During 2018, the old turf field at Lincoln Park was completely replaced with a new artificial turf surface. In addition, the outdoor basketball court was completely refurbished, including a resurfacing and restriping of the entire area. Both of these projects have received rave reviews and have dramatically upgraded the playing conditions for those participating in the various athletic programs that utilize these facilities.

Over at Kennedy Memorial Park, the finishing touches are being applied to our beautiful new skate park, which is already in use. The \$300,000 project was partially funded through a New York State grant secured with the help of former Deputy State Assembly Speaker Earlene Hooper. A dedication ceremony is planned in April that will name the skate park in honor of Jarred Newallo, an avid skateboarder who was killed in a tragic sanitation truck accident in 2014.

In addition, work on creating a new, state-of-the-art, artificial turf athletic field at Kennedy Memorial Park to accommodate football and soccer will begin shortly. The new athletic field is expected to be finished in time for summer use.

It also won't be long before the Parks & Recreation Department's extensive summer schedule of activities is finalized and available for registration. I encourage residents to take advantage of these programs, particularly the wide variety targeted to our children that allow them to enjoy the summer months while getting some exercise in a safe and welcoming environment. For more information check out the Village's website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org) or call 516-478-6246.

All of these parks and recreational enhancements are particularly important for the youth of Hempstead. It gives me great satisfaction knowing they will be enjoyed by our youngsters and the rest of the community for many years to come.

### This Week's Best of Hempstead



This week's Best of Hempstead honors are extended to Marion Fleming. A native of Virginia, Marion spent most of her formative years in North Carolina and eventually settled in Hempstead Village in 1960, where she has lived ever since.

After earning a B.S. degree in Secondary Education from Hampton University 1952, Marion began a remarkable career in education that spanned more than 60 years and included teaching English and serving in a variety of administrative roles as well. She also earned a Master's Degree in Education at Hofstra University. Among her educational highlights, Marion worked for 25 years at Roosevelt High School as a teacher, department head and ultimately held the title of Assistant Principal when she retired from there in 1990. She then went on to teach for nine years at Five Towns College and another 16 years at Nassau Community College before she permanently retired as an educator in 2015.

Over the years Marion has volunteered her time and energy involving a variety of endeavors. For 18 years she was part of an AARP Driver Safety program where she helped train instructors and taught classes throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Marion also helped develop and coordinate a wonderful program called "Awakenings" that was offered by Circulo De La Hispanidad and was presented in numerous libraries and places like Hofstra University, Nassau Community College and Hempstead's African-American Museum. The program, which included a film presentation and the testimony of elders from the community, gave youngsters an intimate and close-up look at the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a seminal event in the civil rights movement involving a protest against the policy of racial segregation that took place between 1955-1956, following the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to surrender her bus seat to a white person.

For the past 12 years, Marion has served as the Voter Service Chairperson for the Central Nassau League of Women Voters, a role that involves registering voters, moderating political debates and providing seminars on voting policies and procedures. In addition, for 57 years Marion has been an active member of the Union Baptist Church, under the leadership of Dr. Sedgwick V. Easley.

Marion, your decades long dedication as an educator and numerous volunteer efforts have literally touched thousands of lives and have left an indelible positive mark on anyone who has been fortunate enough to be in your presence. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to recognize you one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead