



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of August 3, 2017

Vacations are popular this time of year and you may be planning to get away for a few days. The following are some suggestions from the police and other experts that you might want to heed to safeguard your home while you're gone.

First, make arrangements to stop mail and newspaper delivery, or ask a trustworthy neighbor to collect these items for you, including any hand-delivered circulars, to make it look like someone is at home. You might also ask your neighbor to park their car in your driveway periodically as another way to show some activity.

Timers that can be set to turn on lights inside and outside the house are another way of making it look as though someone is home. Set them so that downstairs lights are on in late afternoon and upstairs lights are on in the evening. Another tip is to leave a radio or television on a timer. These worthy investments can be purchased at any hardware store.

Before you leave the house, do a complete check to make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked. Do not leave a key under the welcome mat—this is one of the first places people look to get into the house.

Make sure faucets and small appliances are turned off. You may want to shut down the water main completely to rule out any chance of flooding. Washing machines and dryers should be unplugged to avoid a fire from frayed wiring. Any computers should be unplugged to protect against a power surge in case there is a thunderstorm. Also, be sure the lawn is mowed and watered so potential intruders pass by your house without a second look.

Although you shouldn't broadcast your vacation plans to the whole neighborhood, you can tell the police that you're going to be away and they will send a patrol by to check the house.

Remember—it is better to be safe than sorry. A little time spent preparing the house for your absence could save you from an unpleasant surprise upon your return and give you peace of mind so you can truly enjoy your well-deserved vacation.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



This week's Best of Hempstead honor goes to Travis Nelson, who recently graduated from Hempstead High School as Salutatorian of the class of 2017. This outstanding young man has already accomplished so much and has a fabulous future ahead of him. An AP Scholar and a county and nationally recognized top athlete who served as captain of the school's volleyball team and member of the winter and spring track teams, Travis became the first student in Hempstead High School history to receive the QuestBridge Scholarship from Columbia University, where he will begin his college career this fall. Travis was one of 767 students chosen from almost 15,000 applicants nationwide to be awarded with this prestigious four year scholarship.

In addition to these achievements, Travis served as student government public relations officer and student adviser/liaison to almost every club in the high school. Travis is also on the Youth Advisory of the Family and Children's Association and was keynote speaker for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Long Beach Martin Luther King Center earlier this year.

Congratulations, Travis, for being recognized as one of Hempstead's best and good luck at Columbia University this fall.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead