



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of July 17, 2017

With the hot summer weather upon us residents of all ages will be cooling off in swimming pools. While swimming can be a fun recreational activity, it can also be dangerous. Therefore, it's a good idea to establish some safety rules so they can be followed all summer long.

It seems every year we hear tragic stories of both young children and teens that have drowned in backyard pools. Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages 14 and under. Statistics have shown that most incidents occur when adults become distracted.

It takes only about 20 seconds for a child to drown. Adults should maintain constant supervision of children in and around the pool and never leave them unattended. While monitoring the pool, resist the temptation to become immersed in conversation on your cell phone or involved in other activities on any of your electronic devices. It's important to exercise caution and to stay alert at all times.

Flotation devices are not a replacement for a watchful eye, as they can easily lose air or slip from underneath a person. If there are more children in the pool than you are comfortable supervising by yourself, make arrangements for other adults to be present.

Having a backyard pool is a wonderful means of summer recreation for the entire family but it is also a very big responsibility, especially when youngsters live nearby or are visiting. Do not permit swimming alone, running near the pool or playful screaming for help, which may mask a real emergency.

The pool area should also be protected with a fence, at least five feet high, and a self-closing gate. Mark the water depth with a safety rope across the pool to indicate where it gets deeper. Steps and ladders leading to an above ground pool should be secured and locked, or even removed when not in use. First aid and lifesaving equipment should be easily accessible from anywhere on the deck. Keep toys out of the pool when not in use, as they can lure a child back to the water.

For those without a pool, residents can enjoy the swimming complex at Kennedy Park at 335 Greenwich Street, which is open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm seven days a week.

During pool hours, trained lifeguards who are equipped and ready to deal with any emergency that might occur constantly monitor our swimming facility. However, the presence of our lifeguards does not relieve adults from the responsibility of keeping a watchful eye on young children and teens both poolside and in the water.

Whether you use your own pool or the one at Kennedy Park, practicing common-sense pool safety measures and staying alert at all times will ensure that the rest of the summer is a safe and happy one for you and your family.

This Week's Best of Hempstead

This week's Best of Hempstead honoree is the Evergreen Charter School, which recently was chosen by New York State as a Reward School, one of a select group of charter schools to be recognized among more than 250 that exist throughout the state. The award is given each year to schools with high academic achievement or progress. Founded in 2009 in a LEED certified facility on Peninsula Blvd. in Hempstead Village, Evergreen Charter School has flourished. The school's enrollment has consistently grown, finishing the recent academic year with 375 students in grades K-6. This fall, enrollment will increase to 450 students and expand to include grades K-7. The overwhelmingly majority of students are from Hempstead Village. It's heartwarming to know that a school like Evergreen can achieve such success and the tremendous educational benefits that so many Hempstead Village children receive from such an endeavor. Kudos to Evergreen Charter School for being one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead