



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of September 11, 2017

Recently the Village of Hempstead's police department helped kick-off the AAA's annual "Schools Open-Drive Carefully" campaign, a program that alerts drivers to be extra careful behind the wheel as children return to school and the roads begin handling an increased level of traffic. Now in its 72nd year, the "Schools Open-Drive Carefully" campaign is a nationwide effort by AAA that will involve the distribution of nearly two million pieces of literature in the form of posters, banners, bumper stickers and other materials carrying a simple message: 'Be extra careful behind the wheel as schools reopen.'

Over the years, the program has helped prevent injuries and deaths among children, particularly those of elementary school age. Its importance never grows old especially when it comes to anything involving protecting young lives. Here in Hempstead, many of children walk to and from school. Below is a quick review of some safety guidelines for parents and children that should always be followed when crossing the street:

1. Look both ways.
2. Listen carefully and follow the crossing guard's instructions when one is present.
3. Walk—never run.
4. Utilize the crosswalk, never cross mid-block or between two parked cars.

Adults should use extra caution when driving during school hours, so make a mental note to reduce your speed in a school zone. Adhering to these rules will help ensure the safety of our youngsters. We thank AAA for its role in promoting this important public service and appreciate the opportunity to host this year's annual kick-off. Best wishes to all parents and children for a safe and productive school year.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



This week's Best of Hempstead honors go to Curtis "Flex" Watts whose Sharp Edges Barbershop on S. Franklin St. has been a fixture in the Hempstead community for the past 22 years. Born and raised in Hempstead Village, Flex never graduated from high school yet he found success anyway by learning a skill set as a barber and through determination and hard work built a thriving business along with his partner Jamel Corley.

This past Labor Day while most of us enjoyed the holiday with a day off from work, Sharp Edges Barbershop, whose slogan is "A Cut Above the Rest," was busy providing free haircuts to more than 50 youngsters along with backpacks and school supplies right before the start of the school year. Joining Flex and his partner Jamel in donating the materials and participating in the backpack and school supplies giveaway were representatives from Glory House Recovery, First Hempstead A.M.E. Church, GrownGirlsNYC and Lunch Money.

Flex's commitment to youth is also represented in an organization he founded called The One Through the One, a program run through the Percy Jackson Youth Center that helps teach youngsters moral values and respect. The One Through One was part of the Labor Day backpack and school supplies giveaway as well. Additionally, Flex serves as a Deacon at the Union Baptist Church among his other community activities.

We wish Flex continued success and congratulations for his well-deserved recognition as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead