



## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of October 2, 2017

Each year, during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period as well.

Here in Hempstead Village, Hispanics make up a significant portion of our multicultural population and have had a profound and positive influence on our community through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Village will be hosting a celebration on Thursday, October 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street). At this special gathering we will honor notable Hispanic residents of the Village while commemorating the rich culture of Hispanic Americans through an evening of delicious food, art and storytelling. I, along with all of our Trustees, invite the entire Hempstead community to join us in this festive celebration. And please visit our website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org) for information about other Hispanic Heritage Month activities taking place in our Village.

I also wanted to make you aware of a Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest for middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students being conducted by Altice USA. The contest calls for writing an essay of 500 words or less naming a Latino, past or present, with whom you would choose to spend a day with and explain why. Top prize is a \$1,500 scholarship and three finalists will receive an I-pad mini. The deadline to submit an essay is November 1, 2017. More information, including instructions on submitting an essay can be found by visiting: [www.alticeconnects.com/hhm](http://www.alticeconnects.com/hhm). Wouldn't it be great if one of our youngsters wins the contest.

### This Week's Best of Hempstead



Honors for this week's Best of Hempstead go to Ramiro Yopez. Born in Columbia, Ramiro came to the United States as a youngster and settled in Hempstead Village where he lived for 35 years with his wife and two children. For the past 25 years, Ramiro has served as a volunteer firefighter in our Village Fire Department working out of Victory Engine Company 4 on Jackson Street. Recently named a Captain, Ramiro also serves as Chairman of the Investigations Committee, which helps screen potential recruits for the department.

Since 1990, Ramiro has worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and currently serves as an electronic technician. He also owned a small security business for about 15 years in Hempstead Village in addition to his regular job. Ramiro, in recognition of your contributions as a former small business owner and long-standing service as a volunteer firefighter in our Village we are pleased to honor you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead