



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of November 13, 2017

Next Thursday, November 23, people across the country will come together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Eating turkey and watching football or the annual Macy's Day parade might be part of your tradition, but for me, and hopefully for you as well, the holiday is also a time of personal reflection and an opportunity to give thanks for all of life's blessings.

While it is easier to recognize obstacles and problems in everyday life, one day a year we are asked to put aside our complaints, take notice and be grateful for all the wonderful things that we take for granted.

As the official kick-off to the holiday season, Thanksgiving stirs up excitement and anticipation. Parents eagerly await to spend time with their sons and daughters and other family members to enjoy the holiday together and school children look forward to their upcoming vacations. Surrounding yourself with loved ones and remembering special moments you've shared together exemplifies the season's true meaning.

For those less fortunate, I am greatly pleased with our ability to provide turkeys as part of our annual giveaway that was recently held at Kennedy Memorial Park. This effort will ensure that many additional families have a chance to enjoy a hot meal and celebrate Thanksgiving as well.

I have much to be thankful for including my family and friends and the wonderful memories I've been so fortunate to share with them. I am especially grateful for the opportunity to represent the citizens of Hempstead Village as your Mayor and for what the Village stands for; a hardworking, diverse community where we can all gather together and give thanks for life's blessings, both large and small. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous and healthy holiday season. May God's blessings be bestowed on you and your loved ones.

This Week's Best of Hempstead

This week's Best of Hempstead honors are extended to Girl Scouts of Nassau County Troop 1134 of Union Baptist Church here in Hempstead. Headed by Troop Leaders Shameka Walker and Thelma Moor this enterprising group of 42 young ladies just finished hosting their 2nd Annual Community Feeding that was held in Kennedy Memorial Park on Saturday, November 11. This year, the Girl Scouts provided an incredible Thanksgiving feast to more than 200 members of our community, among them many Veterans who were also invited to attend the event in recognition of Veteran's Day. This generous act of kindness takes many months of planning and the Girl Scouts were certainly up to the task.

In addition to this worthwhile endeavor, Girl Scouts Troop 1134 is involved in other charitable missions throughout the year, including an upcoming Community Feeding and Caroling Day in December that will involve the Girl Scouts visiting every senior care center throughout the village. Back in October, the troop raised \$350 by participating in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Jones Beach and in May they were busy sprucing up areas around the neighborhood by cleaning up and planting new flowers as part of an annual beautification program. Last month, the Girl Scouts paid special tribute to Dejah Joyner a former member of the troupe, who was tragically killed back in 2015. It's wonderful that this amazing group of youngsters are willing to dedicate time to serving and giving back to the community.

To the entire Girl Scouts of Nassau County Troop 1134 of Union Baptist Church, our sincerest thanks for your continued volunteerism and congratulations for being recognized as one of Hempstead's best. May your Thanksgiving be filled with many blessings.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead