



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of November 27, 2017

Have you caught the holiday spirit yet? I know I have and as I travel around the Village I see signs of it everywhere. Homes being decorated with glistening lights and other adornments, stores full of merchandise for the busy crowds out buying gifts and just a general excitement from most folks you encounter.

At Village Hall, we are gearing up for a number of activities that will be taking place as part of our way of recognizing the holiday season.

For starters, our annual tree lighting ceremony will be held at Village Hall (99 Nichols Ct.) on Wednesday, December 6 from 4:30-6 p.m. This festive occasion is always a lot of fun for everyone so if you haven't yet caught the holiday spirit this is a great way to do so. There will be children singing Christmas carols, poetry readings and a special visit from Jolly Ole St. Nick who will arrive by firetruck and pass out treats to enjoy.

On Thursday, December 14, Rabbi Michael Eisenstein of Congregation Beth Israel will lead us in our annual Hanukkah celebration in front of Village Hall (99 Nichols Ct.) at 4:30 p.m. All residents are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Festival of Lights.

For those looking to brighten the lives of those less fortunate we are currently collecting unwrapped toys for our annual Toy Drive & Giveaway in partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Toys can be dropped off at Village Hall (99 Nichols Ct.) during regular business hours. The toy giveaway will take place on Friday, December 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich St.). All recipients must be pre-registered to receive a toy. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 20 and must be made in person by visiting Village Hall during regular business hours. Donating a toy is a wonderful way to ensure that children experience the wonder of receiving a gift during the holidays.

Kwanzaa will mark our final holiday celebration of the year on Wednesday, December 27 from 6-8 p.m. at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich St.) This year's event, held in conjunction with Operation Get Ahead, will feature the lighting of the traditional Kinara, ceremonial singing and readings and complimentary refreshments for all who attend.

For more information about any of these events, please call 516-478-6286 or visit: www.villageofhempstead.org

As the holiday season moves forward I hope you will take some time to slow down and rejoice. Too often we get caught up with all the busyness this time of year brings and we miss out on the important things that make it so special. Whether it's at one of the Village events or perhaps a gathering or activity you decide to engage in, live in the moment and enjoy every minute of it.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



This week's Best of Hempstead honors go to Yardley Ayala. A senior at Hempstead High School, Yardley is a star athlete as well as an honor student. A three year starter on the varsity football team, Yardley played on both offensive and defensive lines. As captain of the team in 2017, he helped lead the team to the playoffs this year for the first time in 10 years. Besides playing football, Yardley helps tutor ninth grade athletes after school as part of a school based program that's run through the Hempstead School District.

Yardley expects to continue his accomplishments on the gridiron and in his academic studies by going to college in the fall and will be the first member of his family to do so. He's currently weighing a number of options before deciding on which school to attend in the fall.

Yardley is another example of one of Hempstead's youth that is on the right track toward success. Congratulations to Yardley for being recognized as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead