



From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of December 4, 2017

With the holiday season full swing, I thought this would be a good time to review some basic safety measures that you might find useful as you go about preparing for this joyous time of the year:

- If you have a fireplace, be sure to have your chimney inspected and cleaned before use. Never burn wrapping paper in a fireplace as it can catch rapidly and cause a flash fire.
- Adults should always supervise children at candle lighting ceremonies and keep matches and lighters out of their reach. Use non-flammable holders and place them in a safe location.
- Pay attention to burning candles and snuff them out completely before you leave a room or go to bed. A good rule to follow is to keep candles lit for no more than four hours at a time.
- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and be sure they are working properly. Make sure batteries are kept fresh.
- When choosing lights, look for the UL approval from Underwriters Laboratories on the label, which ensures the product meets or exceeds safety standards. If you're buying new lights, consider purchasing LED products. They cost more but will last longer and save considerably on electricity.
- Inspect each light strand for broken sockets, frayed wires and loose connections. If you are unsure about their safety, dispose of them immediately.
- Overloading outlets and extension cords is also a potential hazard. Read manufacturer's instructions carefully to find out how many strings are allowed on one circuit.
- Firmly secure outdoor lights to prevent damage from the elements. Never use indoor light strings outdoors. Shut off lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- If you opt for a fresh tree this Christmas, remember to water the tree daily and keep it away from any heat sources to avoid a fire. Also be sure not to place the tree in a location where it could block exit paths from the house. Always keep pathways clear.
- Artificial trees should have a UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or FM (Factory Mutual) label, which ensures they have been tested for safety.
- When cooking, don't overload the oven or stovetop. And remember, never use water to put out a grease fire. Having a small fire extinguisher stored nearby is always recommended just in case it's ever needed.

Following these simple guidelines will help ensure a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Larry Gore gets the honors as this week's Best of Hempstead. Over the past eight years, Larry has enjoyed tremendous success as a Nassau County Youth Football League coach, winning four championships in the past five years, including the 2017 crown by his 13-year old senior league team. A couple of weeks ago, this group of resilient youngsters won a hard fought contest against Massapequa in the semifinals by a 7-6 score, after losing two prior battles to the same team earlier this season. Recently, they followed up that victory by soundly defeating Rosedale in the finals by a score of 20-6.

As great as the achievements he has had on the gridiron as well as success he's also had coaching youth basketball, Larry is most proud of acting as a big brother to the youngsters he coaches, mentoring many of them in their educational endeavors as well as teaching them life coping skills. According to Larry it's his way of giving back to the community by helping 12-15 years old's during a critical time in their development, the same type of guidance he was fortunate to receive as a youth growing up and playing sports in Hempstead Village. Seeing kids he's coached graduate high school and move onto college is Larry's ultimate reward.

Larry is another great example of someone born and bred in Hempstead Village whose contributions continue to make our community a better place for everyone. Congratulations to Larry for being recognized as one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead