



Week of January 1, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

I hope your holidays were filled with abundant joy and happiness. While memories of 2017 will linger in our minds for a little bit longer, the start of the New Year brings a renewed sense of resolve and the prospect of greater opportunities in the 12 months ahead.

For Hempstead Village, 2018 promises to be extra special as it marks the 375th anniversary of our founding. For those of you who weren't aware, the Village of Hempstead's origins go back to December 13, 1643, when representatives of Long Island's original inhabitants, led by Sachem Tackapousha of the Marsapeag group, signed an agreement with Reverend Robert Fordham and John Carman. The agreement stipulated conditions for use of 64,000 acres of mid-Long Island by the incoming English settlers represented by Fordham and Carman. The core meeting site of these early settlers became Hempstead Village.

To recognize this momentous occasion in 2018, a committee being led by Dr. Sedgwick Easley is hard at work developing an incredible program of events that residents of all ages can look forward to throughout the year. Monthly events are scheduled to begin in February and will culminate in a major celebration at the end of September. According to Dr. Easley, activities in the works include honorary street renamings, historical walking tours, a time capsule and more.

Another exciting component of the 375th anniversary involves the March 19th release of *Hempstead Village*, a book about the Village's history, which was written by Village Historian Reine Bethany and also contains a foreword that I had the privilege of contributing. The book is part of the Images of America series produced by Arcadia Publishing. A book launch and signing will be included among the 375th anniversary festivities.

To help spread the word, information about the 375th anniversary, including scheduled events, will be disseminated via the Village's website (www.villageofhempstead.org), eblasts, and social media platforms throughout the year. Printed literature will also be mailed and posted at locations around the village to further promote the various events and activities. I encourage you to join us as we celebrate our 375th anniversary and look forward to participating in all of the wonderful activities planned in the coming months.

I also wanted to bring to your attention to our annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's parade, being held in conjunction with the United People's Organization, will be held on Monday, January 15 at 9:00 a.m. Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) will serve as the parade starting point and will end at Miracle Christian Center (334 Fulton Avenue) where a brief ceremony will follow and will feature a keynote address by Pastor Charlena Hamlin Crouch from the Refuge Citadel of Hope church in Roosevelt. For more information about this event, please contact Juanita Hargwood at 516-478-6286 or Waymon Speight, Jr. at 631-683-5552.

I am so thankful to be Mayor of a community that's the only place I've ever called home. Despite the ongoing challenges that exist all around us and the changes Hempstead Village has witnessed throughout its long 375 year history I am confident that Hempstead Village's finest days are yet to come. I wish every one of you a blessed and Happy New Year.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Recently, we learned some great news about Annie Harrigan, an incredible young lady who was recognized last August as one of our Best of Hempstead honorees. At that time, Annie was working as one of our summer youth interns working out of my office where she assisted with social media upkeep, web site content and some general administrative support duties. In September she entered her senior year of high school where among her extracurricular activities, she serves as yearbook editor, is a member of the music honor society, tutoring fellow students and is on a mock committee that models the United Nations.

The great news is that Annie achieved one of her major life goals and was accepted to Harvard University where she will study English and Political Science starting this August. Ultimately, Annie wants to become a lawyer as a professional career, another goal I have no doubt she will achieve. Annie is a shining example one of a Hempstead's youth who is on the right track toward a bright future. It was such a pleasure having her as an intern this past summer and we are thrilled to hear the latest news about her acceptance to

this prestigious institution. Congratulations, Annie. I look forward to hearing more about your ongoing accomplishments in the months and years ahead. You are truly one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead