

Week of February 12, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

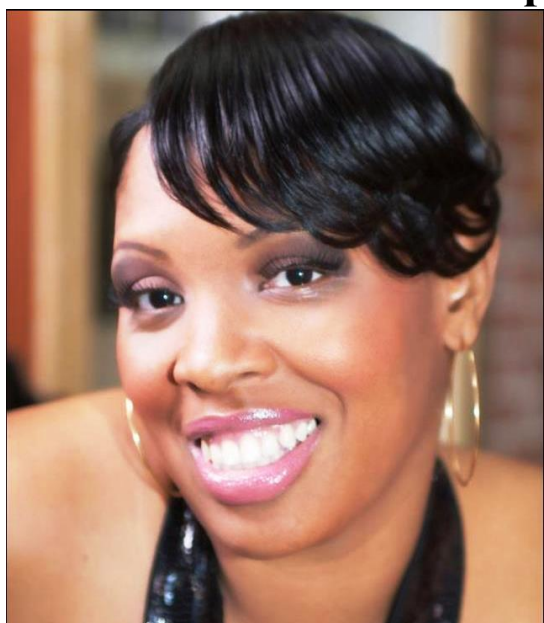
In my capacity as Mayor, I'm often asked what it's like doing business in Hempstead Village. My typical answer is that our Village offers great opportunities for those who offer a quality product or service at a fair and competitive price. That might sound a bit clichéd but it's something I firmly believe in. While the formula for establishing and operating a business can often seem daunting, here in Hempstead we have a variety of resources available to make the process run smoother.

A great place to start is by visiting our Village website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org). There you'll find valuable information, including applications and licenses you can download, policies and procedures to follow and various departments to contact to help answer questions or point you in the right direction. One particular individual that serves as a great resource is Michelle Banks, administrator of the planning board, who can help address issues related to planning matters such as site plan review, floor plans, lighting and signage. Michelle is located at Village Hall (99 Nichols Court) and can be reached by calling (516) 478-6263.

In some instances the Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA) is another place that serves as a helpful resource for businesses. For example, one program the CDA assists businesses with is a signage program that provides a one-time grant of up to \$4,000 for a sign or awning at the place of business. The grant is subject to available funding and on a first-come-first-serve basis for applicants that meet the requirements. For questions regarding this program and to see about any other business matters involving the CDA, please call (516) 485-5737. The CDA is located at 50 Clinton Street, Suite 504. You can also visit the CDA website at [www.villageofhempsteadcda.org](http://www.villageofhempsteadcda.org).

Here in Hempstead there are hundreds of businesses that serve our diverse population. And while we have our share of regional and national chains in places like Hempstead Village Commons, The Hub and other shopping areas, it is small business that truly makes up the backbone of our economy. There's always opportunity for those interested in starting and doing business in our Village and capturing their piece of the American Dream.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



April Keys-Meadors gets the honors for this week's Best of Hempstead. April is a product of the Hempstead school system having attended from pre-k through high school, where she graduated in 1995 as an honor roll student/athlete, playing four years of varsity volleyball. After working for several years in the Uniondale School District, April joined the Hempstead School District and has been there for the past 10 years. She currently serves as secretary to the principal at ABGS Middle School. A strong believer in being a strong voice for all kids in Hempstead, April has been active in the PTSA for many years and currently serves as PTSA President at ABGS. She volunteers as a parent-student advocate as well.

A "Tiger for life" and someone who proudly bleeds Tiger blue, April is also a true football Mom. All six of her children, one girl and five boys, have been involved in Hempstead football; her daughter as a varsity cheerleader and her five sons as gridiron players, along with some basketball. Even her husband played Hempstead Tiger football back in the 1990's. She dedicates countless hours supporting Hempstead football, including being part of a functional parent committee that helps back the team. April is also a strong

believer in kids playing sports, however, emphasizes academics first, not only for her own children but for hundreds of youngsters she interacts with on an ongoing basis. April is especially proud to have three of her children already graduated from Hempstead High School and looks forward to the other three following that path as well.

April has and continues to make Hempstead a better place for all of us. It gives me great pleasure to recognize April for being named one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead