

Week of March 5, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Last Tuesday, as part of the Village of Hempstead's yearlong 375th anniversary celebration, I was joined by Village Trustees along with other public officials, special guests, residents and students during a street dedication of Angevine Avenue to General Joseph A. McNeil Avenue (corner of Angevine Avenue and Greenwich Street) and school renaming ceremony at the Franklin Elementary School, now known as Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School. Retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil is a Decorated United States Air Force Veteran, long-time Hempstead Village resident and National Hero. General McNeil founded "The Greensboro Four," responsible for a series of nonviolent, sit-in protests in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960, which led to the Woolworth Department Store chain removing its policy of racial segregation and catapulting the Civil Rights Movement in the south into the national spotlight. It was such an honor to pay tribute to General McNeil for his role in changing the course of American history and for impacting the lives of African Americans for generations. We are privileged to have a man of his caliber as part of the fiber of our village and I am humbled to have been a part of recognizing his accomplishments.

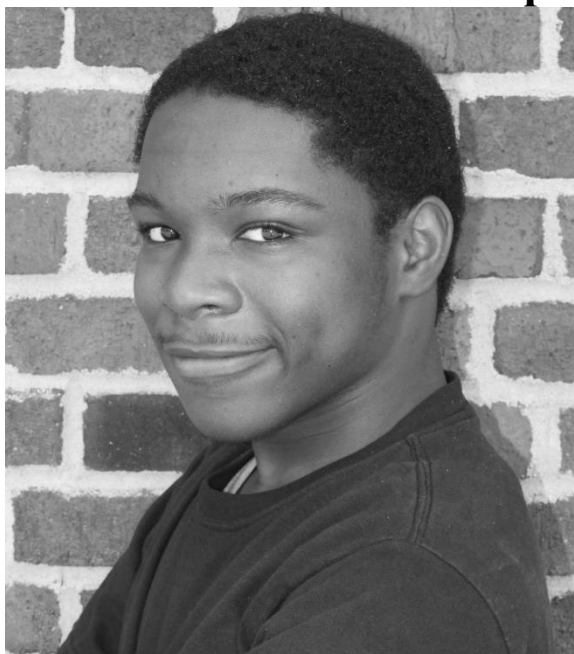
The ceremonies themselves were so touching and there are so many people I want to thank from among all of the village personnel that played a role in making the day such a great success, too many to individually name. However, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Sedgwick Easley who as head of the 375th anniversary did a fantastic job in planning and coordinating the day's festivities along with the rest of his committee.

I'd also like to extend special kudos to Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School Principal Sandra Powell, her capable staff, wonderful teachers and most of all the magnificent students who did an amazing job in preparing for, welcoming and honoring General McNeil. From the incredible greeting they provided when we arrived to the musical performances, presentations and overall enthusiasm displayed throughout the ceremony, I'm sure General McNeil was as impressed and touched as much as I was by the student's efforts. Congratulations to each and every one of them for a job well done.

Next up on our 375th anniversary calendar is a book signing on Tuesday, March 27, featuring *Hempstead Village*, a book about the Village's history, which has been written by Village Historian Reine Bethany and contains a foreword I had the distinct privilege of writing. The book is part of the Images of America series produced by Arcadia Publishing. The book signing event will be held at Village Hall (99 Nichols Court) starting at 6:30 p.m.

Additional details about the 375th anniversary can be found on a specially created website: [www.hempstead375.com](http://www.hempstead375.com). There, residents will find a wealth of information including upcoming events, historical overviews and timeline, ways to get involved and additional news about the 375th anniversary. The website will be updated throughout the year so residents are encouraged to check back periodically to stay apprised of scheduled events and activities. Residents can also visit the Village of Hempstead's main website at [www.villageofhempstead.org](http://www.villageofhempstead.org) for access to village government, services and a variety of other useful resources.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week are extended to high school senior Andrew Culbreath. I first met Andrew while attending the Hempstead High School play *Sister Act* last year. I was very impressed with his performance as Eddie the cop. Recently, I had the chance of seeing Andrew again when I asked him to help present the new street sign during the ceremony honoring General Joseph A. McNeil. Once again I was reminded of Andrew's remarkable poise and stage presence.

Acting is Andrew's passion and besides *Sister Act* he has appeared in a number of other school plays, including *Annie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Crumpled Classic* and *A monologue Show*. Next month Andrew will have a principal role in Hempstead High School's spring production of *In the Heights*. Andrew currently goes to both Hempstead High School and the Long Island High School for the Arts in Syosset. Come September, Andrew will begin attending Five Towns College where he will continue to hone his acting skills. He has dreams of someday being on the Silver Screen and I have every bit of confidence that will happen. Andrew, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Keep up the good work and congratulations on being named one of Hempstead's best.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead