



Week of March 19, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

While it's been several months since the brutal hurricane season of 2017 finally came to a close, the struggles of the hardest hit areas to recover continue.

Here in Hempstead Village it was gratifying to see the community's reaction in providing relief to the residents of Puerto Rico through the tremendous amount of items that were donated and sent to the battered island last fall. One particular effort that touched me was a collection initiated by high school senior Jean Simmons that resulted in more than 1,800 t-shirts being shipped to needy residents. I commend Jean's actions for her time and dedication in performing this act of kindness in a time of need. A collection drive for Puerto Rico that the Village supported in conjunction with the Hempstead Civic Association is still active. Those interested in making donations can drop them off at the organization's office located at 236 Main Street in Hempstead from Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Among the items most in need are bottled water, non-perishable food, hygiene essentials, toiletries and mosquito repellent.

Recently, we also learned that the Commonwealth of Dominica, remains in desperate need as it tries to recuperate from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria last October. To that end, we are assisting in promoting the ongoing relief efforts being led by Agape Ministries, located at 281 Clinton Street in Hempstead, which is serving as the collection site where donated items can be dropped off on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. According to communication we received from the Grand Fond Village Council among the items most in need are flashlights, batteries, heavy duty tarpaulins, household goods (towels, sheets, pillows, etc.) dry products (powdered milk, rice, cereal, flour and sugar) and other non-perishable food products. For more information please call Deborah Polidore at 347-281-3514 or visit <https://www.gofundme.com/disaster-relief-for-dominica-wj> where monetary donations can be made as well.

Another worthwhile cause is a mission being organized by the Worldwide Revival Ministries Church under the direction of Pastor Lino Aguirre that will benefit the citizens of Haiti. The collection is currently underway through the end of June and items most in need are gently used clothing, non-perishable food and toiletries. Monetary donations are also being accepted. The drop off site is at the church located at 158 Main Street in Hempstead on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30 p.m. to midnight and Sundays between 1:30 to 6 p.m. Jimmy Alvarenga who serves as a Deacon at the church and is also Chief of Engine Number 4 in the Hempstead Fire Department is helping to spearhead this effort and will join Pastor Aguirre and other missionaries to distribute all the donated items when they visit Haiti in July.

As your Mayor it makes me proud knowing the care and generosity that is always exhibited by the Hempstead Village community whenever the need arises. I have no doubt our residents will once again rise to the occasion in supporting these relief efforts. Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week are extended to Fred Sandas, Jr. A 57 year resident of Hempstead Village, Fred has served as a volunteer in the Hempstead Fire Department for 41 years. He is currently finishing up a one year term as Chief of the Fire Department after serving as Assistant Chief for three years prior. Over the years, Fred has responded to hundreds if not thousands of calls, often putting his life on the line in order to protect our residents from harm's way during a potentially deadly fire. A dedicated village employee, Fred has performed as a maintenance worker for the Hempstead Fire Department for more than 30 years. It's safe to say that most of Fred's waking moments revolve around serving our Fire Department in some capacity. Interestingly, Fred is also a former Gold Medalist in the Empire State Games Master Division in the hammer and shot put events.

Fred, for decades you've played an important role in your various responsibilities with the Hempstead Fire Department. Thank you for your many years of service and volunteerism. It gives me great pleasure to recognize you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead