



Week of March 26, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

In an effort to reduce poverty and help spur economic development by creating a more business friendly environment, the Village of Hempstead recently began the process of commissioning a new master plan. The study will carefully look at what's taken place in our Village during the past decade and ultimately develop a blueprint for us to follow for the next 10 years.

The last master plan update was completed on 2009, but was limited to a portion of the downtown area. Since then significant changes involving infrastructure, demographic data and general economic conditions make the timing right for a new study and one that encompasses the entire 3.7 square-mile village.

The Village's Community Development Agency will spearhead the master plan project under the direction of Commissioner Charlene Thompson. According to Commissioner Thompson a request for proposals will be issued to interested parties this spring. Among the many factors to be analyzed include the effects of superstorm Sandy on the village's infrastructure, overcrowded school conditions and the impact any residential units will have on student populations, new federal incentive programs that may support future development and opportunities for collaboration on workforce and business development from nearby projects such as the new medical school at Hofstra University and the Memorial Sloan Kettering facility in Uniondale that will open in 2019.

Dovetailing the master plan study is a \$1.5 million anti-poverty state grant that's part of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI). Hempstead Village was one of 16 communities chosen to participate in the ESPRI program, which seeks to decrease the number of residents living in poverty.

Working in conjunction with the United Way of Long Island, the Village recently completed Phase I, a year-long research and planning effort that gathered vital information that will be used to further carry out the program. More than 200 people from the Hempstead region rallied behind the work groups that were formed to look at ways to reduce financial hardships in our neighborhoods. It was gratifying to see the collaboration between our residents, village officials and community organizations during the Phase I process. The completion of Phase I will now allow the commencement of Phase II to move forward. An announcement about Phase II including the requirements for community-based organizations to be considered for one of the anti-poverty projects grant is expected in April.

I am excited about the advancement of both of these initiatives and the positive impact they will have on our village and look forward to sharing more news with you on the master plan study and the ESPRI program as the process further unfolds.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Mike Roberts. Born and raised in Hempstead Village, Mike's entire life has revolved around sports and recreation. A stellar athlete, Mike excelled at three different sports in high school – baseball, basketball and football. However it was on the gridiron where Mike really made his mark. In 1982 he was runner-up to eventual All-America quarterback and NFL player Don McPherson for the Thorp Award, which annually goes to the outstanding football player in Nassau County.

For the past 15 years, Mike has worked as a park attendant for the Village's Department of Parks and Recreation where he's often found performing his duties at Kennedy Memorial or Lincoln Parks. However, his real contribution comes from being a volunteer youth basketball and football coach for more than 25 years, where he has positively impacted the lives of countless youngsters. I've known Mike for a long time and have personally witnessed the dedication and guidance he provides to the young athletes that have benefitted from his tutelage over the years. Recently, his efforts were recognized when he received the Willie White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Coaching Award. Willie was legendary youth coach who Mike actually played for at the age of nine, his initial entry into sports.

In recent years, despite some health setbacks, Mike still lends his time to coaching, something that gives him great joy knowing he's making a difference in so many lives.

A fellow "Tiger" for life, I am pleased to recognize Mike as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations for this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead