



Week of April 23, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

As you know, we are in the midst of celebrating our 375th anniversary this year. Back in February during our first major event to start our yearlong celebration, I was joined by Village Trustees and other distinguished dignitaries and guests during an Honorary Street naming ceremony of Angevine Avenue to General Joseph A. McNeil Avenue (corner of Angevine Avenue and Greenwich Street).

Retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil is a Decorated United States Air Force Veteran, Hempstead Village resident and National Hero. 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. We paid 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 it was a humbling experience to be part of recognizing his accomplishments.

Last month as part of the 375 anniversary festivities, a book signing was held in recognition of *Hempstead Village*, a book about the Village's history, which was written by Village Historian Reine Bethany and which contains a foreword that I was honored to have the opportunity to contribute. The book is part of the Images of America series produced by Arcadia Publishing. The book can be purchased in a number of stores throughout the Village for anyone looking to pick-up a copy.

This past Wednesday, we kicked off a series of Village Historical Walking Tours with a special Senior Tour Day where participants had a chance to experience a trip through time by visiting landmarks around our Village and get a first-hand understanding of what life was like in Hempstead during earlier times. For those that missed out we have two Historical Walking Tours that will be held this Saturday, April 28. The first will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the second one at 1:00 p.m. Those interested should meet in front of Village Hall (99 Nichols Court). With the spring weather finally arriving, it's a great way to learn about our Village's past and enjoy the more mild temperatures.

Other planned 375th anniversary activities include a Time Capsule ceremony in May that we are partnering with in conjunction with the Hempstead Union Free School District and a culmination of our year-long 375th celebration on Saturday, September 29. That all day extravaganza will feature live music, foods that reflect the diversity of our community, games and activities for children and more! The event will conclude with a spectacular firework show to light up the sky and our hearts.

A great way to stay abreast of any of the planned 375th anniversary activities is to visit our specially created website: 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 is being updated throughout the year so residents are encouraged to check back periodically to stay apprised of scheduled events and activities. Information about the 375th anniversary is also being spread via eblasts and the Village's social media platforms. Printed literature will be mailed and posted at locations around the village to further promote the various events and activities as well. As always, residents can also visit the Village of Hempstead's main website at www.villageofhempstead.org for access to village government, services and a variety of other useful subject matter.

Sincerely,

Don

Don Ryan
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead