



Week of June 25, 2018

From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

July 4 is our country's annual celebration of freedom. In today's fast-paced world with all of its distractions that basic human principle is often taken for granted so I wanted to briefly revisit the history behind this incredible achievement.

Since 1774, when the delegates from the 13 original colonies met to form the first Continental Congress, freedom has been a right worth dying for. During the first convention of this newly formed body, delegates from all 13 colonies met to discuss their displeasure with England. The main concern was that King George III was imposing taxes on the colonies without allowing them to have a say in Parliament. War was not formally declared at the conference, but the steps were taken to put it into motion.

When the king ordered his troops to advance in 1775 in Concord, Massachusetts, it marked the start of the Revolutionary War. The second Continental Congress was then established to work out differences with the English government. In May 1776, after many efforts to compromise failed, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. After many structural changes, the declaration was actually voted on by Congress on July 2 and was officially adopted by delegates from the 13 colonies in July 4, 1776.

This year as you partake in your July 4 activities, take a moment to give thanks to our forefathers and countless others since then who have fought so hard to ensure all of us continue to enjoy our freedom each and every day. And wherever and however you decide to celebrate our Independence Day this year, please make it safe and enjoyable.

I also wanted to offer a quick reminder that Friday, July 6 marks the start of our popular Summer Concert Series. These live musical performances will be held at Kennedy Memorial Park (335 Greenwich Street) every Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. during the months of July and August with the exception of August 10 when there will be no concert. And for Gospel Music fans, our Gospel Concert will take place on Friday, August 17 from 7pm – 9pm at Denton Green (across from Village Hall). All of our summer concerts are free so bring a chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of music. For more information visit www.villageofhempstead.org or call 516-478-6247 or 516-478-6286.

This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Ruth Roberson. Born in the Bronx, Ruth moved to Hempstead Village as a teenager in 1966 and has lived here ever since. She graduated from Hempstead High School in 1970 and then attended Adelphi University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and a Master's degree in Elementary Education. Since 1976 Ruth has worked for Hempstead Village in the Department of Parks and Recreation at Kennedy Memorial Park, initially part-time and then full-time since 1988. For almost 30 years she served as a recreation attendant and in September 2017 received a well-deserved promotion to Supervisor where she continues to work out of Kennedy Memorial Park.

Ruth is always willing to lend a helping hand and volunteers her spare time in a number of endeavors, including various Village programs, for more than 20 years with the Hempstead Police Athletic League, for the past 5 years as a member of the Hempstead-Uniondale Rotary and as an occasional reader for first and second graders in the Hempstead school system. One of Ruth's hobbies is poetry, which she calls her solitude and comes straight her soul. She's written a poem for every anniversary of 9/11, as well as poems about Women's History Month, Black History Month and others. She hopes one day to have her works published. Ruth is also a member of the Union Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Sedgwick Easley.

Ruth, you're a valued employee of Hempstead Village and more importantly a cherished member of our community. 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